

THE IMPEACHMENT OF A PRESIDENT

'You did lie and obstructed justice'

POLITICAL CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

WHEN - as now looks likely - President Bill Clinton stands trial in the Senate, it is the two Articles of Impeachment that were approved by the House of Representatives on Saturday that will constitute the indictment. For him to be removed from office, the 100 Senators who will make up the jury must be convinced that the charges are proved, and that they are sufficiently severe to warrant "political capital punishment". Lawyers for Mr Clinton have maintained that they are not worthy of conviction on either count.

The first Article accuses Mr Clinton of providing "perjured, false and misleading testimony" to a grand jury on four themes, including the nature of his relationship with Monica Lewinsky. The second accuses him of trying to obstruct the course of justice in seven areas, including encouraging Ms Lewinsky to sign a false affidavit denying a sexual relationship with him, trying to hide evidence of their relationship (by having his presents concealed) and misleading members of his staff about his relationship in the expectation that they would unwittingly give false evidence to the grand jury in the Lewinsky case.

What these charges do not encompass is the biggest and most memorable "whopper" Mr Clinton told his finger-wagging January statement for the cameras when he insisted: "I did not have sexual relations with that woman, Ms Lewinsky." Lying so blatantly to the electorate might be thought a matter for resignation, but it is not part of the indictment against him, and is not re-

BY MARY DEJEVSKY
in Washington

garded as "impeachable". This would be one for the electorate to judge, not for the House or the Senate.

The two articles of impeachment are more technical, and relate exclusively either to evidence that Mr Clinton gave under oath or to events that could relate specifically to the realm of legality - chiefly, the lawsuit brought by Paula Jones.

Anyone who has viewed Mr Clinton's grand jury testimony, which was shown on nationwide television in September, or the video-clips from his testimony in the Paula Jones sexual harassment suit, and compared them with the sworn testimony of Ms Lewinsky and others recorded by the independent prosecutor, Kenneth Starr, can be in little doubt that Mr Clinton was less than truthful. One question for the "jury" will be whether he crossed the line from reticence to perjury.

As time has gone by, his lawyers have become increasingly frank about the extent of his culpability. Most recently, Gregory Craig, the White House special counsel, admitted that his replies were "evasive, incomplete, misleading, even maddening", but "not perjury".

The chief White House counsel, Charles Ruff, came close to admitting that a jury might be inclined to convict him of perjury when he said that "reasonable people" might conclude that he had lied under oath (though Mr Ruff tried to prove that he had not).

The Clinton lawyers' case is that Mr Clinton never told a

straight lie under oath. Mr Clinton himself said that he had been "not particularly helpful" and "blamed" the prosecutors for not being persistent enough in their questioning. The tapes and transcripts show, however, that the prosecutors did persist, but Mr Clinton persisted too - in being vague and forgetful. This makes the job of the "prosecution" extremely difficult (as it was intended to do).

During the House judiciary committee hearings and the full House debate, senior Democrats challenged the Republicans to produce examples of any sentence by Mr Clinton that was a lie. The lawyers among them argued that without words that were demonstrably false, the perjury charges would fail.

The further problem for the "prosecution" is whether the instances of lies and obstruction of justice, even if they can be proved beyond "reasonable" doubt, are serious enough to qualify as the "high crimes and misdemeanours" the Constitution defines as impeachable.

The view of Democrats and Mr Clinton's lawyers is that they do not, because they stem initially from an attempt to cover up an adulterous affair which was personal and private.

The Republican argument is that the effect would have been to deprive Paula Jones of her right to a fair hearing of her sexual harassment case, so they have judicial significance. They argue additionally that the oath of office requires the President, as the country's chief law officer, to uphold the law and any breach of the law is therefore a violation of his oath - and impeachable.



Henry Hyde, right, Chair of the House judiciary committee gives the articles of impeachment to Gary Sisco, Secretary of the Senate AP

THE ARTICLES OF IMPEACHMENT

These are edited texts of the two articles of impeachment voted against President Bill Clinton by the House of Representatives on Saturday:

Article I
In his conduct while President of the United States, William Jefferson Clinton, in violation of his constitutional oath faithfully to execute the office of President of the United States and, to the best of his ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution [of the US],

and in violation of his constitutional duty to take care that the laws be faithfully executed, has willfully corrupted and manipulated the judicial process of the United States for his personal gain and exoneration, impeding the administration of justice, in that:

On 17 August 1998, William Jefferson Clinton swore to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth before a Federal grand jury of the United States. Contrary to that oath, [he] willfully provided

perjured, false and misleading testimony to the grand jury concerning one or more of the following: (1) the nature and details of his relationship with a subordinate Government employee; (2) prior perjured, false and misleading testimony he gave in a Federal civil rights action brought against him; (3) prior false and misleading statements he allowed his attorney to make to a Federal judge in that civil rights action; and (4) his corrupt efforts to influence the

testimony of witnesses and to impede the discovery of evidence in that civil rights action.

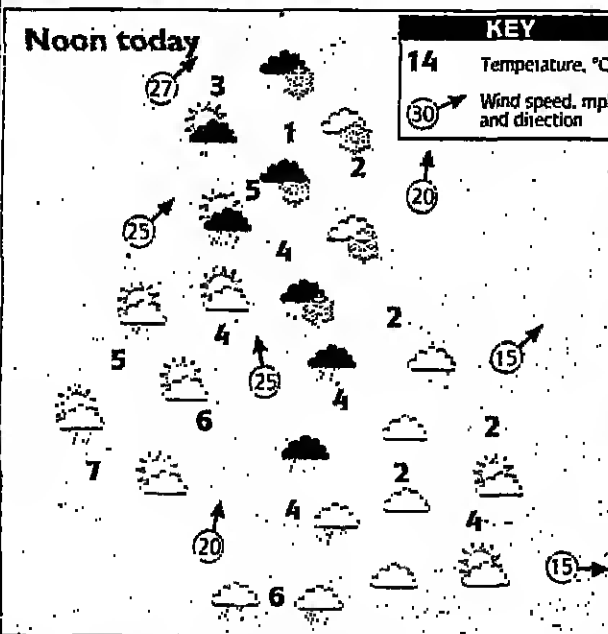
In doing this, [he] has undermined the integrity of the office, brought disrepute to the Presidency, betrayed his trust as President, and acted in a manner subversive of the rule of law and justice...

Article III
In his conduct ... [he] has prevented, obstructed and impeded the administration of justice, and has to that end en-

gaged personally and through his subordinates and agents, in a course of conduct or scheme designed to delay, impede, cover up and conceal the existence of evidence and testimony related to a Federal civil rights action brought against him in a duly instituted judicial proceeding...

[He]... warrants impeachment and trial, and removal from office and disqualification to hold and enjoy any office of honour, trust or profit under the United States.

BRITAIN TODAY



FORECAST

General situation: A very cold and frosty start. The south-east will have sunny spells, but rain will move across towards evening. Northern England, Wales and south-west England will have a spell of rain with snow for a time over the more northern hills. Northern Ireland will start wet and windy, the rain clearing to sunny spells and scattered showers. Western coasts of Scotland will have rain, clearing to showers. Elsewhere in Scotland there will be some sleet and snow, turning to rain at lower levels.

SE England, London, E Anglia, E England: Very cold and frosty, but bright this morning. Rain moving across from the west this afternoon. A light to moderate westerly wind. Max temp 2-5C (35-41F).

Channel Is, Cent S England, Midlands: Some early frost, then clouding over to bring rain this afternoon. A moderate south-west wind. Max temp 3-6C (37-43F).

SW & NW England, Wales, Cent N England, Lake Dist, Isle of Man: Rain soon breaking out and spreading east. Some snow for a time over the hills. A fresh south to south-west wind. Max temp 3-6C (37-43F).

NE England: Starting bright but frosty. Rain will spread from the west with the risk of snow on hills. A moderate south-west wind. Max temp 2-4C (36-39F).

SW & NW Scotland, Glasgow, W Isles: Rain turning to snow on hills, clearing to sunshine and showers. A fresh to strong south to south-west wind. Max temp 2-5C (36-41F).

SE & NE Scotland, Edinburgh, Aberdeen, N Isles: Frost then rain spreading east with snow on hills. A fresh south to south-west wind. Max temp 1-4C (34-39F).

N Ireland: Wet and windy with sleet and snow on the hills, clearing to sunshine and showers. A fresh south-west wind. Max temp 4-6C (39-43F).

OUTLOOK

Tuesday will begin cold. Rain will move into the west, crossing to eastern parts in the north and west, but a low system in the east. Early indications are for a mild Christmas.

TRAVEL

London: A41 Finchley Rd. From Swiss Cottage to Fortune Green. Major works at Finchley Rd junction, until 31st December. West Yorkshire: A1 between Alkborough and Huddersfield. Construction, lane closures and contraflow. Until 31st December. Birmingham: M40 between junctions 1a (M20) & 3 (Wycomb Road). Three narrow lanes both ways and a 50 mph speed limit in both directions. Until 1st January 1999. Bristol: M5 J15-19. Major Roadworks on Avonmouth Bridge. Until 1st January 2001. Lancashire: M6 between J27 Skelthorpe and J28 Leyland. Roadworks, contraflow and a

LIGHTING UP

	3.59pm to	8.45am
Belfast	3.59pm to	8.45am
Birmingham	3.59pm to	8.16am
Bristol	4.09pm to	8.14am
Glasgow	3.44pm to	8.06am
London	3.54pm to	8.04am
Manchester	3.51pm to	8.23am
Newcastle	3.39pm to	8.30am

HIGH TIDES

	AM	HT	PM	HT
Avonmouth	8.27	12.9	8.45	12.7
Cork	6.51	4.4	7.07	4.3
Devonport	7.05	5.4	7.25	5.2
Dover	12.03	6.5	12.15	6.4
Dun Laoghaire	12.36	3.8	12.47	4.0
Falmouth	6.36	5.2	6.56	5.0
Groesbeck	1.32	3.2	2.00	3.5
Hartwich	12.51	3.9	1.14	3.9
Holyhead	11.37	5.6	11.58	5.3
Hull (Albert Dock)	7.36	8.3	7.46	8.5
Kings Lynn	7.40	6.3	7.49	6.6
Leth	3.57	5.3	4.05	5.4
Liverpool	12.13	9.0	12.30	9.2
Milford Haven	7.28	6.7	7.45	6.9
Newquay	6.19	6.7	6.36	6.5
Portland	8.13	2.1	8.39	1.9
Purport	12.31	4.5	12.36	4.6
Swansea	9.18	4.7	9.35	4.6
Scarborough	5.24	5.5	5.31	5.7
Wick	12.27	3.4	12.36	3.5

AIR QUALITY

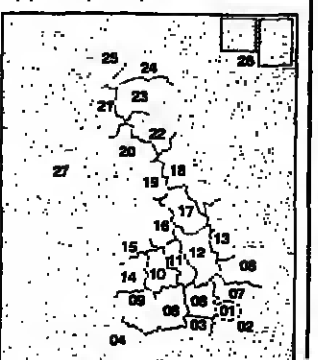
	NO _x	SO ₂
London	Moderate	Good
S England	Moderate	Good
Wales	Good	Good
C England	Good	Good
N England	Good	Good
N Ireland	Good	Good

SUN & MOON

Sun rises:	08.04
Sun sets:	15.54
Moon rises:	09.38
Moon sets:	18.40
First quarter:	Dec 26th

WEATHERLINE

For the latest forecasts dial 0891 5009 followed by the two digits for your area. Source: The Met. Office. Calls charged at 50p per min (inc VAT).



YESTERDAY

	Sum	Rain	Max
Aberdeen	0.8	0.06	4
Anglesey	0.2	0.01	7
Belfast	0.1	0.04	5
Birmingham	3.9	0.13	7
Bournemouth	1.3	0.05	8
Bristol	1.5	0.07	8
Buxton	1.3	0.34	5
Cardiff	1.2	0.06	9
Caslow	2.5	0.13	8
Cromer	0.2	0.29	7
Edinburgh	4.0	0.01	7
Exmouth	2.3	0.06	9
Falmouth	4.5	0.07	8
Folkestone	4.4	0.01	6
Glasgow	4.3	0.09	8
Hastings	1.7	0.03	8
Hove	0.1	0.07	8
Isle of Man	0.1	0.07	8
Isle of Wight	3.0	0.22	10
Jersey	n/a	n/a	n/a
Kendal	0.1	0.02	7
Leeds	0.1	0.07	3
Lewes	0.2	0.07	3
Littlehampton	3.2	0.07	8
London	3.7	0.17	8
Lowestoft	1.5	0.07	8
Manchester	2.2	0.09	8
Margate	5.0	0.04	8
Newcastle	2.0	0.04	7
Newquay	n/a	n/a	n/a
Northwich	0.1	0.64	4
Orford	1.8	0.02	3
Ross-on-Wye	2.4	0.01	6
Salcombe	n/a	n/a	n/a
Scarborough	4.3	0.06	8
Shrewsbury	n/a	n/a	n/a
Southampton	0.1	0.21	8
Southport	0.4	0.02	9
Swansea	2.1	0.20	9
Torquay	1.2	0.01	9
Torquay	2.9	0.05	10
Wexmouth	1.6	0.13	9

EXTREMES

Warmest: Isles of Scilly 7C (45F)
Coldest: (day) Inverurie -1C (30F)
Wettest: Great Yarmouth 0.12 ins
Sunniest: Bridport 5.2 hrs
For 24 hrs to 2pm Sunday

RAIN

OR SHINE...

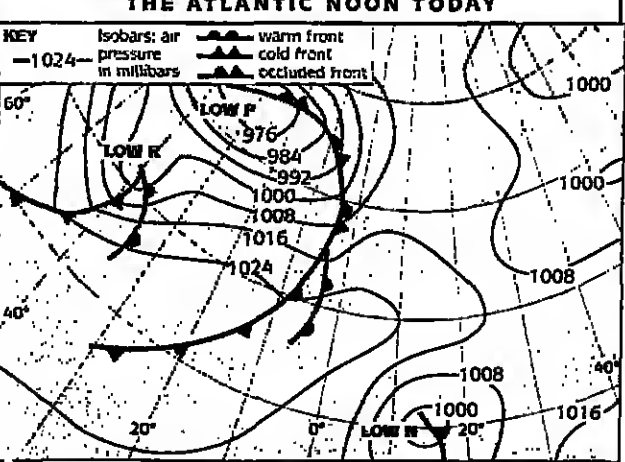
THE CHANCES of a white Christmas melted away yesterday as weather experts predicted one of the mildest festive seasons on record. Most of England and Wales will have warm weather and even Scotland will escape the big freeze. The bookmaker William Hill is offering odds of six to one on Christmas Day 1998 being the warmest of the century, exceeding the 15.6C (60.1F) recorded in Devon in 1920.

THE WORLD

EUROPE NOON TODAY



THE ATLANTIC NOON TODAY



THE WORLD YESTERDAY

	°C	°F		°C	°F		°C	°F
Adelaide	18	64	Chicago	17	63	La Paz	17	63
Algiers	16	61	Cincinnati	18	64	Lagos	17	63
Almaty	15	59	Colombo	26	79	London	15	59
Ankara	10	50	Copenhagen	13	55	Los Angeles	15	59
Antwerp	10	50	Dakar	26	79	Manila	22	72
Auckland	10	50	Dallas	12	54	Moscow	16	61
Bahia	13	55	Darwin	31	88	Mumbai	25	77
Bahia	13	55	Delhi	27	81	Myanmar	27	81
Bangkok	25	77	Doha	27	81	Nairobi	21	70
Barcelona	12	54	Dubai	27	81	San Francisco	15	59
Batavia	16	61	Durham	18	64	Seattle	17	63
Bombay	29	84	Edinburgh	17	63	Shanghai	10	50
Buenos Aires	19	66	Geneva	17	63	Singapore	30	86
Burkina Faso	27	81	Havana	27	81	Sofia	17	63
Burundi	27	81	Helsinki	17	63	Stockholm	17	63
Bush	19	66	Hong Kong	27	81	Sydney	28	82
Buzos	27	81	Hyderabad	27	81	Taipei	21	70
Cairo	17	63	Istanbul	17	63	Tokyo	13	55
Calcutta	27	81	Jakarta	27	81	Ulaanbaatar	15	59
Campan	27	81	Johannesburg	17	63	Washington	10	50
Canton	27	81	Kuala Lumpur	27	81	Wellington	10	50
Cebu	27	81	London	15	59	Yokohama	13	55
Chengdu	17	63	Los Angeles	15	59			

The lie that sunk Clinton

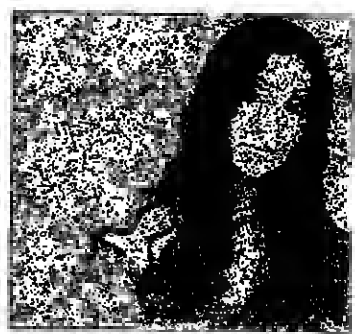


"I did not have sexual relations with that woman, Ms Lewinsky" 26 January 1998



"Indeed, I did have a relationship with Ms Lewinsky that was not appropriate. In fact, it was wrong" 17 August 1998

Oh Wee! What can I get for Lindsey?



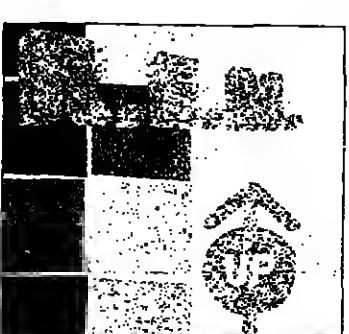
CHER - BELIEVE

Do you believe, in the after love? Cher does, and who can blame her with the number one single of the year and an album full of songs with the same 'grrr' attitude. Take 'Strong Enough', the new single, for example. It's an anthem just waiting to happen. For disc jockeys everywhere who have in mind to believe it.



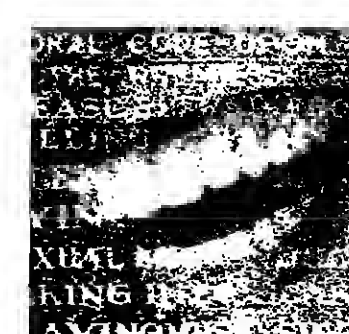
INTERNATIONAL VELVET - CATATONIA

Well, it's a little simple, the best British rock album of the year from everyone's favourite new discovery - the very brilliant, very Welsh Catatonia. Gerv Morris has a voice to die for and the songs are underpinned by 'Mud & Soul', 'Rude Rap', 'Strange Like', 'Came On'.



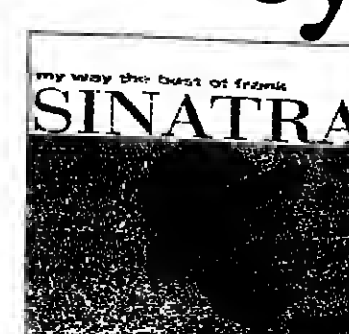
UP - REM

Critics have been saying this is the album of the year so there won't be any disappointed faces on Christmas morning. Santa can get up down your changes. A return to the kind of gorgeous song found on Automatic For The People: notable the fabulous 'Daydream' and their most recent hit 'Lovers'.



SUPPOSED FORMER INFATUATION JUNKIE

More people laugh Alanis Morissette about album than any other female artist in history - she certainly struck a chord. She made such an impact because her songs deal with real personal emotions, so it'll be a big hit with every happy family on Christmas morning. Includes the hit 'Thank U'.



MY WAY - THE BEST OF FRANK SINATRA

1998 will go down as the year the world lost a greatest singing talent, making this a program gift this Christmas. All of Frank's classics on one album. My Way (at last), New York, New York, Swingin' in the Rain, Let's Love You Under the Moon, I'm Fly With Me, Mack The Knife and so on, coupled with a fabulous booklet with new sleeve notes and previously unreleased photos.

سكرا من الراحيل

Jury on the Hill takes up positions for trial of the century

THE SENATE

AFTER A five-day helter-skelter of events that had pushed and jostled each other into the news, political Washington was finally able to sit back yesterday, take a breath and consider the significance of what had happened.

The President had been impeached for only the second time in US history. The Democrats were united (almost) in defiant support of their leader; the Republicans were fending off meltdown for the second time as many months. The political establishment was bitterly divided, and so was the country.

Even as Washington tried to relax, however, two competing developments were already in train. The methodical constitutional process was taking its course, preparing the way for the Senate trial that is the next and final stage of Mr Clinton's disgrace. And from the White House came the sounds of anxious wheeler-dealing in a last-ditch attempt to fend off the final - and irreversible - stage

of impeachment: the removal from office of the country's 42nd President, Bill Clinton.

Within an hour of Saturday's impeachment votes, the House of Representatives had appointed nine managers to oversee the charges against Mr Clinton, and they had physically carried the two approved articles of impeachment across the Capitol Rotunda to the Senate. The House thus completed its role in the impeachment of the President. According to the constitution, the Senate is now obliged to hold a trial.

Less than two hours later, Mr Clinton, arm in arm with his wife, Hillary, appeared in the White House rose garden to hail the support of a crowd of House Democrats and insist that he would work "to the last hour of the last day of my term". He was flanked by his Vice-President, the still-wooden Al Gore, his almost cadaverously lean chief of staff, John Podesta, and

the washed and brushed House minority leader, Dick Gephardt, an ensemble of solidarity that may or may not stand by him in the weeks to come.

Mrs Clinton, wearing an understated black trowsersuit, had on her lapel the brooch that she had worn for her television interview back in January, when she had defended her husband and blamed a "vast right-wing conspiracy" for his troubles.

The golden eagle, holding a pearl in its talons, had become a tacit symbol among Democratic women of their support of the President. For Mrs Clinton to wear it on Saturday was to state that the Clintons were fighting on.

Mr Clinton indicated one direction of that fight, when he said that he hoped for a "constitutional and fair means of resolving this matter in a prompt manner". In other words, he was looking for a deal. The White House is said to have put out feelers across the political establishment in an attempt to find

any solution that would stave off a Senate trial.

In the three weeks before his impeachment at the hands of a fractious and combative House, the White House had started to sue for peace. They had spoken of compromise and deals, and on the day before the vote, Mrs Clinton - in a rare recent intervention - had called for reconciliation.

The thrust of the Democrats' arguments, such as they were in the two-day House debate, also tended towards compromise, culminating in Mr Gephardt's eloquent, but frustrated plea for censure, rather than impeachment, in the last minutes of the debate.

In the rose garden, too, there was talk of olive branches and healing. Such pleas were not the strongest suit for the Democrats to present in the debate, but they might have a chance.

Some Republicans are believed to have voted for impeachment secure in the knowledge it was an indictment rather than a conviction and Mr Clinton would probably survive.

The Democrats warned them that a vote for impeachment should not be treated as a warning shot across Mr Clinton's bows.

There is, however, a question about how many Republicans would have voted for impeachment if their majority in the Senate were greater than its current 10, or if they had believed that they were voting to convict rather than charge.

Misgivings among Republicans about removing Mr Clinton from office may yet open the way for a motion of censure or for a solution that has become known as "censure-plus" - that would incorporate a stiff fine, running into millions of dollars, and an understanding that Mr Clinton could face criminal charges on similar counts (perjury and obstruction of justice) once he leaves office.

The assumption in Washington - which may not, of course, be correct - is that the Senate has no appetite for removing Mr Clinton from office

and would countenance a "plea-bargain" of the sort so common in American courts.

Among the intermediaries - in a poetic twist - is believed to be the man whom Mr Clinton defeated for the presidency in 1992: the former Republican Vice-President and former Senator, Bob Dole, who set out a five-point compromise two weeks ago and has the ear of senior Senators.

The Senate Majority leader, Trent Lott, however, stated categorically on the eve of the House debate that he would not stand for anything less than a trial. "No deal-making," he said.

The right wing of the Republican Party would agree, and this has led some to believe that a trial is inevitable. The only question then would be its duration, and the outcome.

The Senate convenes for its new session on 6 January. A trial could commence as early as 11 January, but would probably take place later. One forecast is that it could be as short as a few days; another - that it could last several months, depending on whether witnesses are called, and how many.

Proceedings would be televised, but not the deliberations of the Senators - who may ask written questions but not speak during the trial.

A two-thirds majority of the 100-strong Senate is needed for conviction, which would require 12 Democrats to vote with the 55 Republicans. Currently, that scale of defections looks unlikely. But Senators are regarded as wilful and quirky; at least two - Robert Byrd and Pat Moynihan - are sticklers for the Constitution and the law, and might change sides, taking others with them.

If, as in the House, the arguments move towards the high principles of a guardian of the law who lies under oath and away from "what did he touch and when did he touch it?", any vote could be closer than the White House would like. Which is why they will be investing so much effort over the holiday season in forging a deal.



Clinton, backed by Hillary Clinton, vice president Al Gore and chief of staff John Podesta, pauses during his statement on Saturday Reuters

WHAT NEXT FOR CLINTON?

- 1. Resignation**
As the import of the impeachment vote sinks in, Mr Clinton loses the support of Congressional Democrats and the country and is persuaded, despite himself, to resign.
- 2. Forced Out**
A Senate trial is held. Sufficient Democrat Senators are convinced of the gravity of the President's conduct and its harmfulness for the country and provide the two-thirds majority necessary to convict. The President is forced out and replaced by Al Gore.
- 3. Tried but Acquitted**
A Senate trial is held. Mr Clinton's lawyers satisfy the Democrats that the offences cannot be proved. Their vote holds solid and Mr Clinton is acquitted; he remains in office. Like Andrew Johnson in 1868, he has been impeached, but not removed. He claims victory.
- 4. The Lame Duck**
White House strikes a deal between now and the new Congressional session in January. The Senate convenes and immediately adjourns, accepting something tantamount to a presidential plea-bargain entailing a strong censure, perhaps a fine, but no further punishment. Mr Clinton is wounded, but not slain.
- 5. Constitutional Fisticuffs**
The White House fights on constitutional grounds, contesting, perhaps, the right of the Senate to try the President on the basis of charges approved by a House of Representatives whose mandate has expired and Representatives who were voted out of office (in the November elections), before they voted on impeachment. Long court fight ensues.

Judge with impeccable reactionary credentials

CHIEF JUSTICE REHNQUIST

BY RUPERT CORNWELL

TO SPEAK of "Nixon's revenge" would be going a little too far. But assuming President Clinton does undergo a full impeachment trial in the Senate early next year, the black-gowned presence of William Hubbs Rehnquist as judge and supreme arbitrator of his fate, symbolises how, in the span of a quarter-century, US politics has gone full circle.

Rehnquist was nominated to America's highest court by Richard Nixon in 1971 and, after stormy confirmation hearings, took his seat in January 1972. Two and a half years later, a Republican President with a rare capacity to inspire hatred among his political opponents was forced to resign in face of certain impeachment by a Democrat-controlled Congress. Playing a modest but not insignificant part in proceedings was a young staff member on the Watergate committee named Hillary Rodham, later Clinton.

As the country braces for the first impeachment trial of a President since 1968, roles have been uncannily reversed. Nixon's conservative appointee is now Chief Justice of the United States, the man who will act as judge to the jury of 100 senators.

This time it will be a Democratic President at odds with a Republican Congress - but a President who, like Nixon, contrives to inspire an almost irrational loathing among many of his political foes. Where Nixon saw a left-liberal plot against him, Rehnquist could be depicted as part of the so-called "right-wing conspiracy" to unseat Bill Clinton.

There are of course dissimilarities - most striking the contrast between the bipartisan support over Nixon which showed the American political process at its finest, and



William Hubbs Rehnquist: Unwavering conservative

today's vicious partisan hawling which threatens to make that process unworkable. One thing however may be said with confidence: there could not be a Chief Justice that Hillary Clinton would less like to see in charge of the trial of her wayward husband than the 74-year-old William Rehnquist.

For one thing he is an unwavering conservative. From his days as a Goldwater Republican practising law in Arizona, through his spell as head of the crucially important Legal Counsel's Office at Nixon's Justice Department, to his 27 years at the Supreme Court, Rehnquist has sat firmly on his side of the great cul-

ture and political divide through American society. Famously, once appointed the Court, individual justices break free of the ideology for which they were picked; guaranteed tenure for life gives a man remarkable independence from the political patrons who gave him his job. Not however Rehnquist, bugbear of liberals for four decades.

Back in the 1950s he opposed school desegregation, backing "separate but equal" education for the races. At Justice, he was a vigorous supporter of pre-trial detention, wiretapping, electronic surveillance and other paraphernalia of Nixon's "law-and-order" programme, soon

to be grotesquely perverted in the Watergate affair.

Once upon the bench, he was a dissenting voice in the historic 1973 Roe v. Wade judgment that confirmed a woman's right to an abortion, and has opposed gay rights and affirmative action. Today, along with Clarence Thomas and Antonin Scalia, he forms a troika of unshakable conservatives on a gradually more liberal Clinton court.

Most ominous for the Clintons however is the manifest lack of sympathy by Rehnquist, an acknowledged specialist on the US constitution, for this President's claims of executive privilege to stall the special prosecutor's investigations - uncannily mirroring similar efforts by Nixon 25 years ago.

Then, the argument revolved around the privacy of tapes of Oval Office conversations; this time Clinton has fought to protect the secrecy of advice given him by White House lawyers, and over whether his bodyguards and security men could be forced to give grand jury testimony. In both cases Rehnquist in person ruled against him.

From there, for many liberals, it is a short jump to identifying the Chief Justice as a secret weapon in chief of Clinton-haters. He is a Republican friendly with, and from a comparable professional background to, Clinton's nemesis Kenneth Starr.

And indeed, it was Rehnquist who picked the right-wing North Carolina judge who headed the three-man panel which astonished neutrals in 1994 by choosing Starr to replace Robert Fiske, a moderate East Coast Republican as special prosecutor. A coincidence? Perhaps. But in today's suspicion-charged Washington, many will be scant inclined to believe it.

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The precedents of misdemeanour

Nixon: The man who cut and ran

WASHINGTON, 1974

"ONLY IF you've been in the deepest valley," booms an eerily familiar voice from the video screen, "can you know how magnificent it is to be on the highest mountain top." Comforting words, perhaps, for President Bill Clinton as he faces the humiliation of a Senate impeachment trial, particularly since they come from a former president uniquely placed to appreciate his predicament - Richard Nixon.

We are in the auditorium of the Richard Nixon Library and Birthplace, in a remote corner of the sprawling Los Angeles suburb, and the video being played is entitled, aptly enough, *Never Give Up*. Made a few years before Mr Nixon's death in 1994, it is a 28-minute orgy of rhetorical self-congratulation and justification for the traumatic events that led, in August 1974, to the first resignation of a US president.

Mr Nixon intones from beyond the grave about world peace and the spread of freedom, while skirting as best he can around the lying, cheating and abuse of federal institutions that led the judiciary committee of his time to draw up two articles of impeachment (the quit before they came before the full House).

Watergate takes up the single largest space in the library exhibition - a long wall of pictures, text and audio extracts from Mr Nixon's notorious White House tapes - but the scandal is presented in highly defensive tones as a political plot against an essentially honourable president.

Is this the way Bill Clinton will be forced to present his legacy to the world - a hollow exercise in saving face, in which the uncomfortable facts

BY ANDREW GUMBEL
in Yorba Linda, California

must somehow be manipulated to look less embarrassing? Or are the two cases so different that comparisons are meaningless? After all, faced by bipartisan belief that he should go, Mr Nixon did not even wait for the full House to vote upon impeachment. Once the House judiciary committee had voted a single article of impeachment, the men in grey suits were at the White House and, within a week, Marine One was lifting off from the White House lawn to carry him back home to California.

One thing is sure - of the many unrepentant Nixon fans who come to his library to pay homage, few display much sympathy for the way the current president is being treated. Many have trouble even calling Mr Clinton by his name.

"Nixon was just covering up for his group and his people. He didn't attack the whole fabric of society like... like this guy - I can't even call him 'president' any more," said George Shuster, a retired mortician from Connecticut and one-time Republican mayoral candidate. "We put our sons and daughters in Washington as interns to teach them about this great system of ours. To have a man like that taking advantage - why, it's rotten to the core." Mr Shuster's wife saw even greater evil lurking behind the presidency. "Clinton has destroyed the military. The Russians and Asians Nixon fought are now living in the White House! Don't you think there's some kind of communism behind it all?"

A paranoid touch worthy of Tricky Dick himself, one might say. Particularly since public



Nixon leaving the White House for good in 1974; the Watergate building (top); the reporters who broke the scandal, Woodward and Bernstein; and 'Tricky Dick' resigns



opinion is behind Mr Clinton in a way it never was for Mr Nixon. So strong is national opposition to impeachment that only at places such as the Nixon Library can supporters be found in any number.

There are those who believe the impeachment proceedings are little more than delayed revenge by the Republican majority in Congress for the treatment handed out to Nixon

by his Democratic adversaries. Nobody at the Nixon Library was willing to assign such low motives to the Republicans, although plenty were happy to accuse the Democrats of putting politics before principle in 1974. "I think Nixon got a raw deal," opined Joe Betz from Baltimore. "With him it was a political thing, unlike Clinton, who lies." President Clinton's purported lies are the reason most

Nixonites think he deserves to be turfed out. But what about Mr Nixon's record? He was the man of whom Lyndon Johnson said: "He can lie out of both sides of his mouth at once. And even if he is telling the truth, he lies anyway; just to keep his hand in."

To be fair, some visitors thought Nixon got his just deserts. "He was a great statesman, but he also lied and

abused his power," said a San Diego policeman. "In my job, if I lie I'm fired immediately. The same goes for... what's his name?" Such reflections were not echoed by the staff of the library who, in stark contrast to the more virulent-minded visitors, clearly understood the politics of pots and black kettles. "President Nixon always felt it was unfair to speak out against a sitting president," explained the

library's director of programming, Evie Lazzarino. "This institute aims to celebrate the presidency, not denigrate it." To the amusement of many visitors, the library is hosting an exhibition on presidential romance - the matrimonial sort, that is. Among the many artefacts, which go back to Lincoln, is Hillary Clinton's wedding gown. It gets plenty of comments, most of them unprint-

able. In the light of recent events, the exhibition comes off sounding remarkably optimistic about the health of both the Clinton presidency and the Clinton marriage. "On October 11, 2000, President Clinton and Hillary Rodham Clinton will celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary in the White House," announces the display above the First Lady's gown. Maybe one shouldn't be so sure.

Johnson: The man who stood and fought to stay in office

BY RUPERT CORNWELL

WASHINGTON, 1868

THE REPUBLICAN Congressman was talking about the American President born into poverty from the border South whom he detested with unforgiving fury: that "ungrateful, despicable, besotted, traitorous man - an incubus".

Bill Clinton, you might imagine. In fact not. The giveaway is the Latin-derived word, incubus, relating to a "nightmare" or "demon". In the 19th century, a knowledge of the classics still meant something. The object of the Congressman's loathing was the 17th President, Andrew Johnson, the last, and at least until today, the only occupant of the White House to be impeached - in 1868.

The two cases are different, not least because Johnson was a clumsy and tactless politician,

nowhere near the league of that eloquent and consummate political operator, William Jefferson Clinton. He was also untested, a Vice-President who had been promoted by accident three years earlier when Abraham Lincoln was assassinated. But despite the space of 130 years and the 24 Presidents which separate them, they are remarkably similar.

Johnson came from Tennessee, a Confederate state, and though he had opposed secession, he sought a less punitive reconstruction for the vanquished South. He had begun life as a Democrat, and only became a Republican with the approach of the Civil War. Almost immediately upon entering the White House he fell foul of Congress,

where the Radical faction of the Republican Party, bent on maximum vengeance on the South, promoted financial aid for freed blacks, and a Civil Rights Act which in some instances would give them greater voting rights than whites. For Johnson, the measures were unfair and infringing states' rights. To the fury of the Radical Republicans, he vetoed them both.

The Congressional elections of 1866, in which Johnson sought to outflank his nominal allies by enlisting the support of northern Democrats brought him only defeat and crushing repudiation. The Republicans' hatred of Johnson only grew: in the words of one Cabinet member, they would have impeached him "had he been accused

of stepping on a dog's tail". Their chance came on 21 February 1868, when Johnson dismissed his Secretary of War Edwin Stanton, in defiance of a recent law stipulating that such steps required Congressional approval. No matter that the law was unconstitutional. The Radical Republicans went ahead, throwing in some other counts of conspiracy and bringing Congress into disrepute.

Here too parallels abound. Johnson's private life, like Clinton's, was less than pristine. Today's 42nd President has been smeared by sexual scandal and lying to a Grand Jury to cover it up - but nothing to match the insinuations against Johnson, who, it was suggested, had arranged Lincoln's

murder to seize supreme power. Then as now, partisanship swept away all semblance of political civility. On 24 February, Johnson was quickly impeached by a 126-47 vote along party lines, and sent for trial to the Senate on 11 counts in all.

The decisive moment came on 21 May 1868. The Republicans could afford six defections. In fact seven voted to save Johnson's skin. The seventh and last of them was Edmund Ross from Kansas, who was thereafter shunned by his colleagues: evicted from office at the next election; and subjected to vilification by former supporters. History, however, has judged Ross more kindly, as an unsung saviour of the republic's constitution. Johnson for his part managed to serve out the rest of his term. Right now, Bill Clinton would ask no more.



Andrew Johnson, the first American President to be impeached Camera Press

From the moment of madness to the moment of truth:

It's hard to believe now, but a year ago none of us had heard of Monica Lewinsky. She was just one of many ambitious young things who had done an internship at the White House. The "himbie eruption" on everybody's lips was Paula Jones, who was bringing a sexual harassment suit against the President, and a minor player in her case became the catalyst for his impeachment.

7 January 1998
Lewinsky testifies in Jones case
Called to testify in Paula Jones's sexual harassment case, Monica Lewinsky denies she ever had a sexual relationship with the President. She allegedly asks Linda Tripp, a friend and ex-White House employee, to lie for her as well. But Tripp has another agenda.

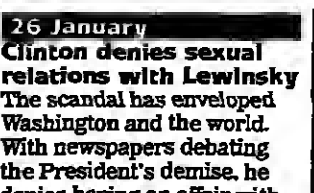
13 January
Tripp tapes chats with Lewinsky about the President
Subsequently, prosecutors ask Lewinsky to co-operate



in their investigation. She refuses.

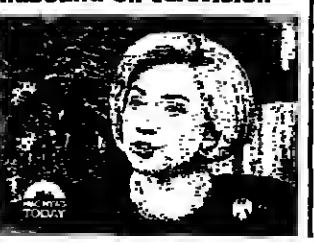
18 January
Rumours fly on the Internet
Matt Drudge, the scandalmonger of the Internet, reports that *Newsweek* has shelved an exposé of an affair between Clinton and Lewinsky.

21 January
Existence of Tripp's tapes reported
The Washington Post reports the existence of the tapes that Tripp made of her chats with Lewinsky.



26 January
Clinton denies sexual relations with Lewinsky
The scandal has enveloped Washington and the world. With newspapers debating the President's demise, he denies having an affair with Lewinsky.

27 January
Hillary Clinton defends husband on television



Hillary Clinton appears on national television to defend her husband, calling detractors' allegations a "vast right-wing conspiracy".

29 January
President Houdini appears to escape
The Clintons' aplomb, combined with Middle America's indifference, combine to give "President Houdini" his first great escape of the year. Opinion polls show the President's approval ratings at an all-time high.

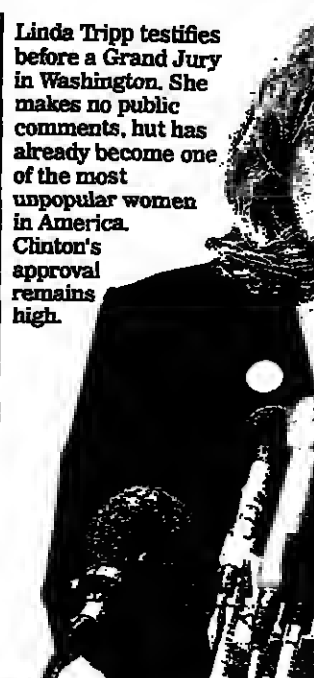
15 March
Kathleen Willey accuses Clinton of fondling
As Kenneth Starr, the special prosecutor, continues his investigation into the President's alleged peccadilloes, Kathleen Willey, another former White House

worker, accuses the President on television of fondling her by the door to the Oval Office.

2 April
Jones case dismissed
Paula Jones's sexual harassment case against the President is dismissed. Willey's claims fade without making much impact.

2 June
Lewinsky fires lawyer
After weeks of tense negotiations and impasse between Starr's office and Lewinsky, she replaces her high-profile lawyer, William Ginsburg. Starr hasn't managed to convince Lewinsky to testify, but his tentacles are spreading.

30 June 1998
Linda Tripp testifies before a Grand Jury



Linda Tripp testifies before a Grand Jury in Washington. She makes no public comments, but has already become one of the most unpopular women in America. Clinton's approval remains high.

Groundswell of sympathy for Clinton

VIEW AROUND THE COUNTRY

THEY MAY not have watched all of it - the four votes, their President on the White House lawn vowing to plough on, his eyes almost shut with exhaustion and emotion, or even the speech from Bob Livingston, the Speaker of the House-elect, announcing his intent to resign. But yesterday everybody knew what had happened. And most, apparently, did not like it.

There was not shock among the citizenry, but rather a dour acknowledgement that a historical bridge had been crossed. And although there are divisions for sure, a polarisation between those who wanted President Bill Clinton impeached and those who thought the punishment too harsh, the arguing had, on the whole, subsided. In the churches they prayed that the whole thing, however it ends, should be over soon.

True, at the posh Innis Arden Country Club in Old Greenwich, Connecticut, debate still sputtered on. There on the practice putting green, with a tall flag bearing the stars-and-stripes, James Borges argued with his golfing pal Thomas Curtin as he handed him a wrapped gift for Christmas. Mr Borges liked what the Republicans did, Mr Curtin thought it an embarrassing nonsense.

"I think Clinton did wrong and the Republican party was following the principles that were set up in the constitution," Mr Borges said. "Maybe too much has been made of the sex, but the President lied and he should be chased out of office." Mr Curtin rolled his eyes and laughed. "I think this is so terrible because around the world this makes us look like a bunch of idiots."

In numerous interviews yesterday with voters on the East

BY DAVID USBORNE in New York AND ANDREW GUMBEL in Los Angeles

and West coasts finding anybody willing to celebrate the votes on Saturday was a tall order. The common strand was sadness, while a clear majority were angry at the Republicans. The same views were born out by snap polls that showed the popularity rating of the President rising. Notably, the NBC poll showed his approval rating up from 68 to 72 per cent. A total of 62 per cent said he should not resign.

"There is nothing to say at this stage, except to hope that the whole thing backfires on the Republicans terribly," said Tim Pershing, a camera technician in Hollywood, where support for President Clinton remains strong. Bill Rubenstein, a screenwriter, has been trying to speed an hour a day telephoning politicians, conservative think-tanks, anyone who might listen to his argument that impeachment is wrong. "These people are doing something profoundly evil and, for the most part, they don't even know it. So I try to tell them," he said.

Indulging in their ritual Sunday morning hour at their local bagel shop, Alfred and Rosalie Hutter of Stamford, Connecticut, understand that the President erred in his private life but disagree that that warrants his removal from office. "We have just had our 50th anniversary," Mr Sutter, a limousine driver, explained. "The couple celebrated with a QEII voyage to England last month." "Neither I nor my wife have known sexual relations with anyone else in all that time, and what the President did was wrong. But on the other hand I am not so offended by it that I think he

should be driven out. They say he lied to protect his family. Well yeah, we can understand that."

Mr Sutter said the news that Mr Livingston had committed adultery made him laugh. "Actually I was hysterical," he said.

President Clinton, some have suggested, is America's first black President, because of the affinity felt by many in the African American community towards him. In packed co-ordinations at several churches in Harlem yesterday, the mood was one of dismay and intense sympathy for the first family.

At the minuscule St Samuel Church of God in Christ on East 125th Street, the worshippers had to wait for 20 minutes before the 11 o'clock service finally got under way. That was because their preacher, the Rev. Amos Kemper, was in his office discussing the impeachment vote with his fellow church leaders. All were angry.

"They should give him another chance, everybody should be given another chance," offered Katie Stokes. The little plastic badge on her dress might have been for Henry Hyde, the chairman of the House Judiciary Committee. "Ain't nobody God but God," it read.

The Rev. James Duncan watched all of Saturday's proceedings on his television. "They've been trying to put Clinton's back up against the wall in Washington, asking him to confess to perjury and so forth. He can't do it though because they would put him in jail. He is a good president because his is the first president who has been approachable for us." Does this mean the Rev. Duncan would not vote Republican next time? "I won't be voting



Pro and anti-Clinton demonstrators at the White House as the impeachment was announced Mark Wilson

Republican on time," he splits. "There is no minority in this country who should be voting for that party, because it is the Good Ol' Boy party," the Reverend Kemper interjects. "What we saw yesterday was really the dogma of the human race, the dogma to hurt. The Republicans want to ignore us, the people, and that's got to be wrong."

Seventy blocks south at St Patrick's Catholic Cathedral, where the congregation was al-

most entirely white, Cardinal Patrick O'Connor asked for prayers, not for President Clinton but for the impeachment process - that it should be "resolved soon and justly". They were prayers offered, after all, in a season that is meant to be about peace and goodwill.

George Sinko, a retired advertising executive who travels from Long Island to worship at St Patrick's, is a long-time Republican. His views, however, were with the majority at yes-

terday's service. "What President Clinton did does not constitute an impeachable offence in my view. This whole thing has been entirely partisan. I think it has been terribly unfair and is distracting the country from so many other important things he should be caring about."

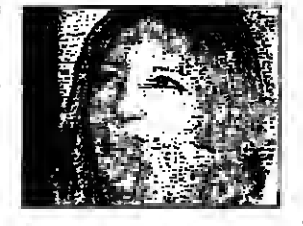
As the politicians from both parties in Washington headed home to their districts and their families yesterday they leave one drama behind them and know that another drama

awaits them in the New Year, the expected trial in the Senate. For sure, they will be bearing from their constituents over the Christmas season.

But, as they see the dismay over the partisanship that reigns in Washington, they may want to consider these words written above the make-shift altar St Samuel's Church in Harlem: "We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord and we pray that all unity may, one day, be restored."

VOCAL AMERICANS

Thomas Mann, Brookings Institution: "It is not an ennobling time. As someone who's watched national politics for almost 30 years, I've never been so ashamed of our national political leaders, and never so saddened by the behaviour of Congress."



Barbra Streisand, actress and staunch Clinton supporter: "Who could have imagined that we would be living in a time when those we elected to office would turn off their phones and unplug their fax machines in order to ignore the voices of the American people?"

Walter Isaacson, the managing editor of Time magazine, which named Bill Clinton and Kenneth Starr its "men of the year": "Decades hence, we will still be debating the meaning of the great Clinton-Starr struggle and picking at the lingering wounds."



Arianna Huffington, conservative columnist: "Congress is not the appropriate venue for Livingston to tell his wife, as he did in the middle of an impeachment debate, he loves her... nor is his resignation a sign of political valour. Instead, it blurs irreparably the line between the president's serial infidelities and his serial lying under oath."

Ku Klux Klan man will stand for Livingston seat

REPUBLICAN REACTION

BY ANDREW MARSHALL

AS IF the Republicans needed any more bad news, David Duke, a former Ku Klux Klan leader, has said he will run for the congressional seat vacated by Bob Livingston, the Speaker-elect who resigned on Saturday.

"I am running because there needs to be one member of Congress who stands up for the European-American," Mr Duke said, a message that the party really does not need. Because though it may have got what it wanted - the impeachment of President Bill Clinton - the party has emerged battered, bleeding and deeply divided.

The resignation of Mr Livingston crystallised its problems. He had been appointed just weeks ago after Newt Gin-

grich, the former Speaker, resigned in the wake of the election rout.

Mr Livingston was forced to admit on Thursday that he had damaged his marriage through adulterous liaisons, after a Washington newsletter published details on its web site.

Mr Livingston presented his resignation as an honourable reaction to his problems, and challenged the President to follow suit. But in truth, he was brought down by the anger of conservative members of his own party. The resignation left his colleagues stunned.

"It was like a punch in the stomach," said New York Republican Peter King. "Some members were actually crying on the House floor."

Tom DeLay, the Republicans' chief whip, came appar-



Bob Livingston: forced to resign by colleagues

ently to praise Mr Livingston. "He understood what this debate was all about - it's about honour and decency and integrity and the truth, everything we honour in this country," he said. But Mr DeLay, who was the first target of criticism after the elections saw the Republicans lose House seats, has emerged suspiciously well-placed. The new speaker is likely to be Tom Hastert, a protégé of his from the whips' office.

The Republicans in the Senate have watched aghast as the House party has turned itself inside out. They are unlikely to want a repetition in their House of the same events: weeks of hearings, embarrassing questions and opinion polls that show the public think they are partisan and vindictive.

All of this points towards some early move to broker a deal which sees the President censured.

Bid to remove the chief has unified the party

DEMOCRAT REACTION

BY MARY DEJEVSKY

ALTHOUGH CONGRESSIONAL Democrats have suffered the indignity of seeing their President impeached by a convincing majority in the House of Representatives, they are standing behind Bill Clinton.

The number of Democrats who voted for impeachment came out of the Chamber en masse to protest at the rejection of a censure vote, and massed a couple of hours later at the White House to demonstrate their continuing support for the President. Their leader in the house, Dick Gephardt, strengthened his position and earned widespread respect for his handling of the debate.

The party's solidarity is in marked contrast to the defec-

tions in the congressional party suffered by Richard Nixon 24 years ago and is one crucial reason why Mr Clinton has survived this far.

In the summer, in the wake of Mr Clinton's 17 August admission that he had lied about his relationship with Ms Lewinsky, morale in the party was low and divisions multiplied as midterm elections approached.

But Hillary Clinton's campaigning zeal, and Mr Clinton's strong showing in opinion polls, seemed to rally the party, and the Democrats' election results were far stronger than anyone had expected.

Since then, Democrats have been almost unanimous in their support of Mr Clinton, and his plight may even have served as a unifying force. The orthodoxy now is that he has been



Dick Gephardt: Earned widespread respect

good for the country.

So far, a majority of Democrats has chosen to disregard, or to parry, the vexed question of principle and it is possible that this could become a divisive factor when Mr Clinton is tried in the Senate.

Despite this backing, the White House is said to be worried that momentum could build up behind calls for Mr Clinton to step down, especially after Bob Livingston's resignation from the House speakership on Saturday.

But so long as opinion polls show a majority in the country still approving of Mr Clinton, Democrats seem prepared to rally around their President, and the Nixon precedent of senior party officers arriving at the White House to persuade him to resign seems remote.

William Jefferson Clinton's year of living dangerously

28 July 1998
Starr offers Monica Lewinsky immunity
Kenneth Starr announces he has finally reached a deal giving Lewinsky immunity from prosecution for perjury in exchange for full details about her relationship with the President.

6 August
Lewinsky testifies in front of a Grand Jury
Lewinsky testifies in front of a Grand Jury for six hours.

17 August
Clinton confesses on national TV
On the day of his long-awaited testimony the President tells the Grand Jury, and the nation that he has a relationship with "a lady that was not appropriate". He does not

apologise and looks relaxed on TV as he goes to Martha's Vineyard on 18 August

20 August
Clinton orders bombing of a "chemical weapons plant" in Sudan and a terrorist base in Afghanistan.

4 September
Clinton says he is sorry
Clinton apologises for the affair: "I'm sorry," he tells America.

9 September

Starr completes report
Starr sends his completed report to Congress under high security. Clinton appears contrite on TV again.

11 September
Starr report published
The Starr report, in all its damning, lurid detail, is published on the Internet.

21 September
Clinton's testimony shown on TV
Clinton's video testimony to the Grand Jury is shown on TV. Predictions that it would



trigger his immediate downfall are wrong.

15 October
Impeachment founders
The impeachment inquiry appears to be floundering.

3 November
Democrats gain seats
Democrats increase seats in the Congressional mid-term elections. Clinton sheds his contrite and regains his confidence - and cockiness.

20 November
Ethics adviser resigns
Starr's ethics adviser resigns after the special prosecutor defends his much-debated report in front of Congress.

23 November
Demand made for impeachment vote
House speaker-elect Bob Livingston insists he wants

IMPEACHMENT: THE FIRST AMICHE

REPUBLICAN	DEMOCRATIC	INDEPENDENT	TOTALS
223	200	23	446

TIME REMAINING 0:00

an impeachment vote even if it appears it will go in favour of the President

19 December
Impeachment proposed
The House Judiciary Committee proposes four articles of impeachment.

18 December

Impeachment debate
After lobbying by the President's aides and Hillary, Congressmen launch into a heated and controversial debate on impeachment.

19 December
Vote to impeach
Lobbying fails. The House votes to impeach Clinton.



Children gather around a huge crater yesterday caused by a missile attack late on Saturday on the Labour and Social Affairs Ministry in Baghdad

Karim Sahib/AP

'Do you think our soldiers were crazy enough to stay in barracks?'

THE VIEW FROM THE GROUND

AFTER THREE days of missile attacks the tops of many tall buildings in Baghdad are cracked open like concrete eggs, the upper stories reduced to a tangle of twisted metal and broken masonry. But most Iraqis think the prime target of the bombing - Saddam's regime - is undamaged.

"It will all be rebuilt in two or three months," said an Iraqi friend. "After all, half the population is unemployed so we are not short of labour. Saddam knew he could take a limited attack like this and declare himself a winner. If the aim was to weaken the regime in Iraq then it was not serious."

Already yesterday, government officials were sounding a triumphant note. "We knew they could not go on firing three hundred missiles a day," said one. He refused to comment on military casualties but added: "Do you think our soldiers were crazy enough to stay in their barracks?"

The short bombardment showed that Iraq has no defence against cruise missiles. The anti-aircraft fire was meagre compared to the fireworks of 1991. But the fact that Sad-

By PATRICK COCKBURN in Baghdad

dam Hussein, the Iraqi leader, is still in place at the end of the air assault seems to be evidence to many Iraqis that he has seen off another challenge to his rule by the United States and Britain - the elephant and the rat, in the unkind comparison of Tariq Aziz the Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister.

Security in Baghdad is tight. Armed Baath party militia are on street corners. Outside the capital it is impossible to know at first hand what is happening. But the willingness of the government to take journalists to Basra, near the Kuwaiti border in the south, suggests that it is confident that they are fully in control, despite the fact that some of the bombardment was specifically aimed at destabilising Republican Guard units in the area.

It was not a war without victims. In the first two days the Iraqi Ministry of Health says 68 civilians were killed in and around Baghdad. Indirect casualties are likely to be far greater. Much of Iraq's 22 million people live on or just



Business as usual: A man chooses fruit at a market in the centre of Baghdad yesterday

Peter Dejong/AP

below subsistence level.

Unicef said that a survey it carried out in October showed that one in five Iraqi infants are suffering from chronic or acute malnutrition.

With so many people only

just surviving from day to day it does not take much to push them below the breadline. For instance, every morning in normal times thousands of labourers gather in different parts of Baghdad waiting to be

hired. They earn the equivalent of about one pound a day. For the last three days they have not been seen.

"People like that have nothing to fall back on," said Margaret Hassan, the head of Care

International, the aid organisation in Iraq. "There are people here so poor that they cannot even afford the 200 dinars - 11 pence - which it takes to buy the official food ration. For a month, I was in a hospi-

tal in Kerbala (in the south) where they had no food to feed the mothers of newborn infants. Children over the age of one were getting a cup of tea and a piece of bread in the morning and nothing else."

In many ways Iraq has become less vulnerable to high technology attack because it has returned, after eight years of sanctions, to a pre-technological age. There is not a lot left to destroy.

In Saddam City, the huge working-class district of east Baghdad, a local doctor, who did not want to be named, said: "The economic collapse here even generates jobs. People no longer use the telephone, but send messages by hand. Street cleaning is done by men with buckets not garbage trucks. Of course they get paid very little money."

Amidst such massive deprivation a few hundred missiles - frightening though they are as they strike - make little impact on the lives of ordinary Iraqis. It is unlikely to make them rise up against the government, even if they were able to do so against such a tightly organised security system. This is the view of every Iraqi I have spoken to in Baghdad. One man summed up the views of all the others: "In the end, it was not really serious."

BATTLE LINES

SADDAM HUSSEIN
"You were up to the level that your leadership and brother and comrade



Saddam Hussein had hoped you would be at... so God rewarded you and delighted your hearts with the crown of victory. "God will repay well and crown your heart with clear victory, which will be attested by your enemies"

TONY BLAIR
"We have severely damaged Saddam's ability to produce and repair ballistic missiles. "We have severely set back his chemical, biological and unmanned drone programmes. This...weakens his ability to threaten his neighbours. Just because we can't get in the cage and strike him down, it doesn't mean that we should leave the cage



untouched. What we have done is put him firmly back in his cage."

"We have reduced the danger Saddam poses, consistent with common sense and a proportionate use of force. I recognise that not everyone around the world has welcomed this action but I believe, at heart, most know its necessity."

"We are ready to strike again if he again poses a threat to his neighbours, or develops weapons of mass destruction."

BILL CLINTON
(after impeachment)
"We are a good and decent country but we have significant challenges we have to face."

"In order to do it right,



we have to have some atmosphere of decency and civility, some presumption of good faith, some sense of proportionality and balance in bringing judgement against those who are in different parties."

"We must stop the politics of personal destruction."

Foreign Office to sell containment

BRITAIN'S DIPLOMATIC OFFENSIVE

BRITAIN BEGAN a diplomatic offensive yesterday aimed at securing international support for its doctrine of "containment" of President Saddam Hussein and winning over several European allies who are deeply unhappy with the Anglo-American bombing of Iraq.

The crisis in the Gulf has demonstrated once more that Britain has a special relationship with the US. The phrase does not require inverted commas. It is a fact of life, cemented by history, shared language and intensive military and intelligence co-operation, oozing up through the bureaucracy to affect whichever British government is in power.

This time again, an almost instinctive mechanism has functioned. But not to everyone's liking. For all the Prime Minister's claims of backing for the raids among European and moderate Arab opinion, British officials acknowledge that many fences must be mended and many reassurances given.

By RUPERT CORNWELL

And the signs already are that "containment" could run into big problems over the future of United Nations sanctions against Baghdad.

Tony Blair's assertion that sanctions must be tightened seemed to be contradicted yesterday by President Jacques Chirac of France, who insisted that the top priority must be to improve conditions of life for ordinary Iraqis. Urging a "profound review" of the relationship between Iraq and the UN, Mr Chirac said the time had come to re-examine the oil embargo, which was imposed after the 1991 Gulf War.

Britain insists the embargo, eased by more recent oil-for-food deals, should stay - at least until the unlikely event that UN weapons inspectors are allowed back into Iraq and certify that its chemical, nuclear and biological weapons programmes are no more. But France wants at least an

easing of the sanctions, while providing safeguards against Iraqi rearmament. It would be "a politically delicate" question, Mr Chirac acknowledged, with some understatement.

Britain's efforts to explain itself get under way in earnest this morning when the Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, holds a two-hour meeting in London with his German counterpart, Joschka Fischer, whose country takes over the rotating EU Presidency in 10 days' time, and who has publicly lamented the bombings of Iraq.

Afterwards, the Foreign Secretary has set aside most of the afternoon for phone calls to his opposite numbers in Russia and EU countries including Italy and France, in which he will "be seeking to win them round to our ideas of containment", officials said last night.

The task may be difficult. If France could be charitably described as ambivalent about the bombing, Italy was explicitly opposed, while Moscow with-



French President Jacques Chirac yesterday Reuters

drew its ambassador to London in protest - though the Government strenuously insists that there has been no long-term setback to co-operation with Russia. And the attacks could have serious implications for future European defence strategy.

At one level, whatever Mr Blair says, they will cast doubt on Britain's commitment to the new "European defence identity" he wishes to impart to the EU, whereby the Union on occasion could take military

action without the direct involvement of the US.

At another, the strikes - effectively taken without consultation with either Britain's EU or Nato partners - may increase resistance to an "out-of-area" function for the alliance, turning into something akin to a global policeman.

This is already likely to be the principal item of controversy at next April's 50th anniversary Nato summit in Washington, charting the alliance's post-Cold War role.

Sidelined Yeltsin warns the Allies

WORLD REACTION

RELIEF THAT the bombardment of Iraq has ended was the common emotion across the international community yesterday, combined in many cases with an urgent desire to avoid a repeat attack.

Though the most vocal criticism of the American and British action came from opposition groups in Arab countries, Boris Yeltsin, the Russian President, issued an urgent warning against further use of military force against Iraq.

"Reason has finally prevailed," he said in a written statement. "It still remains to fully assess the negative political consequences the bombardment led to, not to speak of the victims among the civilian population and the significant damage to the Iraqi economy, which was already bled dry by the sanctions."

Mr Yeltsin's stance of the past few days is the strongest position he has taken against his putative political friends in London and Washington. "It is

By DARIUS SANAI

absolutely clear that the use of force only complicated the solution of the Iraqi problem," he said. "Nobody has the right to violate the UN charter." He added. The Russian President was not informed in advance of the attacks and despite his opposition has appeared helpless to stop them.

Other Western leaders, while avoiding criticism of the action, were careful to emphasise the need for peaceful progress in the impasse between Iraq and the UN. Germany and Japan urged Baghdad to start working with the UN again to avert the possibility of another military strike.

"The German government therefore calls on Iraq to resume its co-operation with the UN," Chancellor Gerhard Schröder said, a comment echoed by Japanese Foreign Minister Masahiko Komura.

Although none of the leaders of Iraq's Muslim neighbours

made any public statements, officials in some pro-Western Gulf Arab countries expressed their reservations about allowing bombardment to be launched from their territory.

In Rabat, the Moroccan capital, there was a demonstration by around 100,000 people, with demonstrators denouncing the "assassin" Bill Clinton and his "pet dog" Tony Blair.

There were similar protests in the West Bank Jordan and Syria. In Damascus, over 1,000 angry demonstrators, mostly students, attacked the American and British embassies.

An British embassy statement said the Ambassador, Basil Eastwood, had formally complained to Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk al-Sharaa asking for adequate protection and compensation for the damage inflicted by the protesters.

Mr al-Sharaa reportedly offered a "full apology" and stressed that there will be suitable protection for all British buildings and nationals.

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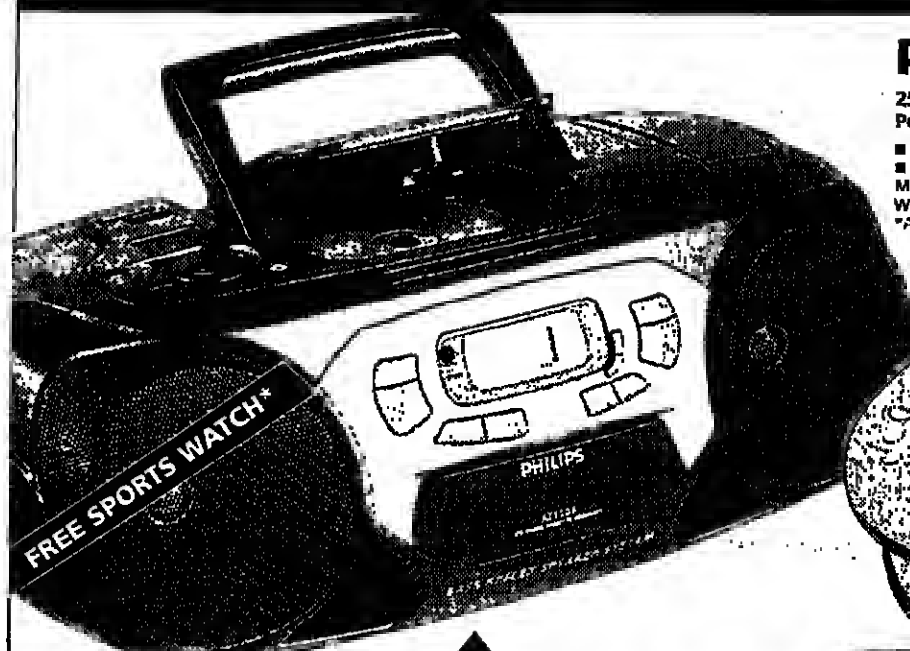
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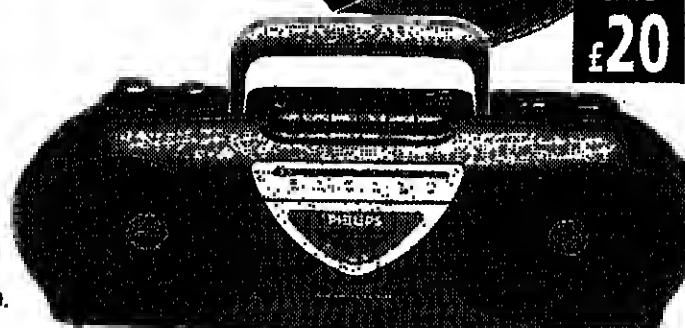
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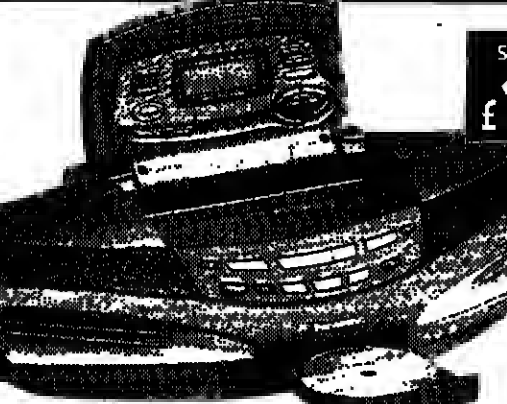
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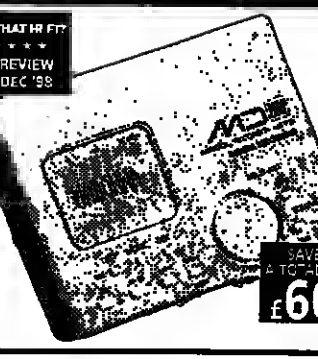
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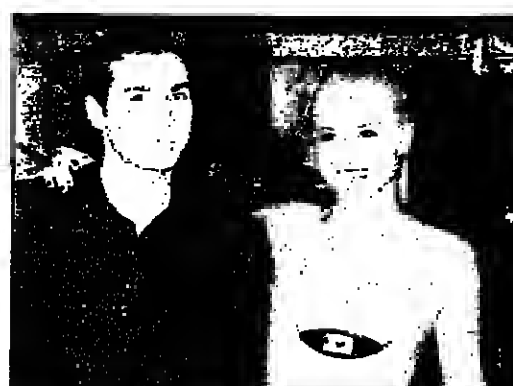
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Slade, who will forever reap the reward of their festive No 1



The Spice Girls, left, are No 1 this Christmas after beating Johnny Vaughan and Denise Van Outen. Jimmy Osmond, right, a past winner

Bookies lose on Spice Christmas

IT IS as much part of the festivities as turkey and the Queen's broadcast. The Christmas No 1 marks the time when the music business abandons its cool image and unleashes catchy, sentimental and downright silly singles on the charts.

Yesterday, Radio 1 announced that the Spice Girls have equalled the Beatles' hat-trick with their third consecutive No 1, "Goodbye", beating off close competition from Cliff's "Chocolate Salty Balls". Denise and Johnny's "Especially For You" was number three with

BY GLENDA COOPER

Cher's former chart-topper "Believe" at number four.

The bookmakers William Hill estimate they have lost £250,000 over the past three years due to the Spice Girls making it to No 1. They are already quoting the Girls as favourites for next year at 2-1 and are nervously looking at the weather (the double bet on the Spice Girls and a white Christmas at 8-1 could cost them an awful lot).

John McKie, editor of

Smash Hits, says he was not surprised by the Spice Girls' supremacy: "They are the biggest pop act on the planet, they release a single the week before Christmas - it's not exactly rocket science to see they were going to make it."

But he added that it is not always as clear cut: "Christmas is also the time when people that would never usually get to No 1 can make it, like Mr Blobby or the Tele.lobbies."

While the rest of the country quails at the thought of Slade's "Merry Xmas Everybody"

(1973), St Winifred's School Choir's "There's No One Quite Like Grandma" (1980), or "Long Haired Lover from Liverpool", Little Jimmy Osmond (1972) haring out again, for record companies the Christmas No 1 remains crucial.

Estimates suggest a Christmas single can sell three times as many copies as a normal chart topper, with the festive season accounting for 40 per cent of profits. "A Christmas No 1 is a landmark in the calendar," said Steve Redmond, editor-in-chief of Music Week.

"A Christmas single can also propel sales of an album."

While the Spice Girls took few risks, their latest offering enjoying a sophisticated PR campaign for weeks, the spin-off from the cartoon South Park, voiced by 1970s soul legend Isaac Hayes, took a more low-key approach. The Chef single had little airplay due to its risqué lyrics, and the record company's approach, says Mr Redmond, was a man dressed as Chef walking up and down Oxford Street with a placard saying "Buy my record."

Murder leads to hunt for toddler

POLICE WERE searching desperately yesterday for a two-year-old girl after her mother was found murdered in her home in Liverpool.

It is believed that the woman, 22-year-old Sharon Lester, had been dead for more than two days when her mother found her body. She had been beaten and repeatedly stabbed.

Merseyside police issued an

BY CATHY COMERFORD

had appealed for him to come forward in the hope that the girl may have been with him.

Detective Superintendent Russ Walsh, the officer in charge of the investigation, said: "We just do not know where she is. We would like to think she is safe and well with somebody who is taking good care of the little girl, wherever that may be. But at this moment in time we just haven't got a clue."

Police are particularly keen to speak to two men seen with a van at the house on Saturday, about two hours before Ms Lester's body was found. A police spokesman said: "They may be unconnected, but we are looking for more sightings of the van and for the man or men to come forward and tell us what they were doing there."

Ms Lester's body was found in a downstairs room at the back of the house, police said. Officers were unable to confirm whether anything had been stolen. A police spokeswoman told *The Independent*: "We are trying to establish if any of the little girl's clothes are missing, but obviously it is a very difficult time for the family."

House-to-house inquiries were being extended last night as forensic scientists searched for clues at the murder scene. Relatives, friends and health workers who have come into contact with Jade are being traced, the spokeswoman said. Neighbours were also being asked to come forward with any information that might help to trace the missing child.



Jade Lester, 2: Mother's body was found at home

urgent appeal for information about the whereabouts of Ms Lester's daughter, Jade. It is thought she was last seen nine days ago, a week before Ms Lester's body was found at her home in the Kensington area of the city.

Detectives have launched a nationwide hunt for Jade. They said it was now "critical" they found the toddler's father, who is believed to be from the area but lives elsewhere.

Yesterday Merseyside police officers were interviewing Ms Lester's boyfriend, John Park, who comes from the Tue Brook area of Liverpool. They

Internet tries to bring God closer

FOR THOSE who believed God's message was getting lost amid the increasing Christmas commercialism, help, of a sort, is at hand. A new gift service guarantees that the Almighty will communicate with you on a regular basis - sending inspirational verses of the Bible via your pager.

The Pages from God facility is one of a burgeoning number of theological gizmos available on the Internet. It will page you 20 times a month - in return for a small subscription.

Or invest in some Testaments, which come in three flavours and have wrappers bearing verses of the Bible. "Next time you're on a train... think: Testament," reads the blurb for a special seasonal tin. "Pass them round and do the work of an evangelist. You'll be helping to share the Good Chews."

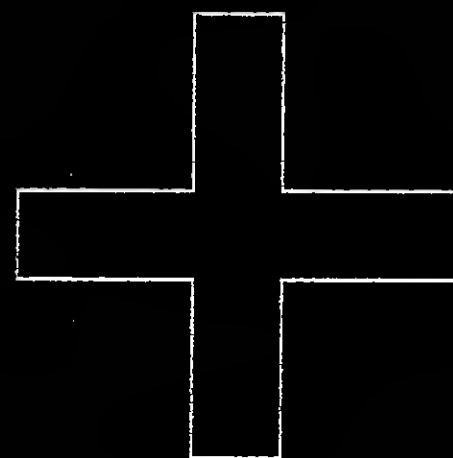
Less tasteful is the Talking Tombstone, a standard granite and bronze memorial, which has the bizarre addition of a

BY CLARE GARNER

built-in speaker. A recorded announcement is triggered by an invisible beam so, every time a visitor approaches, a metallic voice declares something to the effect of "Hi! I was Jane Smith. I died at 10.15am, Thursday, November 25th 1994. Thanks for coming to see me. Have a nice day."

Meanwhile, the Mormons are marketing a Repent! Watch, a constant reminder that whatever time it is, it is always time to repent.

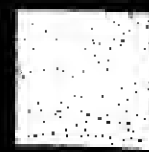
Other suggestions for a last-minute Christmas present for your parish priest include a Cometh the Hour, Cometh the Text digital clock, which flashes up verses of the Bible on the hour. And finally, fun for all the family with an Ecclesiastical Karaoke machine. This digital player has 3,000 hymns to choose from and an optional "Amen" button to bring each rendition to a fitting close.



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IN THE INDEPENDENT TOMORROW

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Lockerbie: 10 years on and families pray for the truth

AN EMOTIONAL warning to the British and American governments not to jeopardise a trial of the two Libyans suspected of the Lockerbie bombing was delivered yesterday on the eve of the tenth anniversary of the Pan Am 103 mass murder.

Bert Ammerman, a 52-year-old high school principal from New Jersey, stood outside a church in the Borders town where he spent nine days waiting to identify his dead brother, and expressed the frustration of the victims' families in their search for the truth. "I couldn't care less if these guys are found guilty or not. They are only what we Americans would call 'guppies' - small pawns," Mr Ammerman said after attending the morning mass at Holy Trinity Catholic Church.

"A trial will release the evidence and that's the most important thing. If you don't have a trial you are never going to find the truth. And if a trial doesn't happen, that's a scandalous issue on the heads of the British and American governments."

There has long been suspicion among victims' relatives that it has suited security services not to face the spotlight of a trial.

Mr Ammerman contrasted the readiness of the US to wage war in the Gulf with its tardiness over an atrocity in which 189 Americans died.

BY STEPHEN GOODWIN
Scotland Correspondent

Some 50 relatives and friends of American victims are expected to be in Lockerbie today.

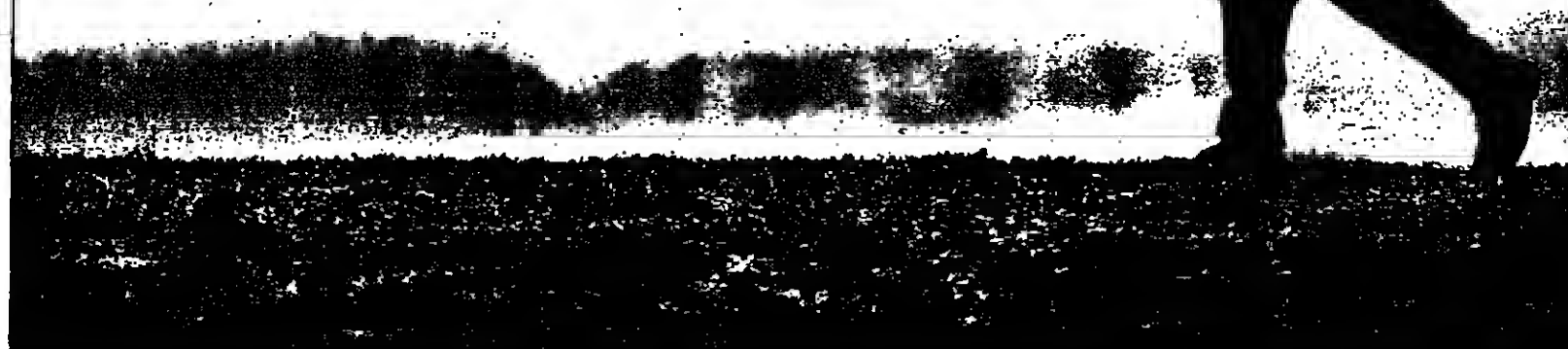
At 7.03pm, during a memorial service, there will be a minute's silence, marking the moment 10 years ago when a terrorist bomb exploded in the aircraft at 31,000 feet, killing all 259 people on board and 11 on the ground in an inferno as the fuel-laden wing section ploughed into their homes.

There will be four simultaneous services - in Lockerbie, attended by Prince Philip; in Westminster Abbey, attended by the Tony Blair; at Arlington National Cemetery, Virginia, attended by President Bill Clinton; and at Syracuse in New York State, which lost 35 university students.

Under a clear blue sky on the last Sunday before Christmas, Lockerbie did not look like a town overshadowed by tragedy. A cluster of about 20 reporters and photographers opposite Holy Trinity church attracted a few curious glances.

But Lockerbie is tired of the media and the grim notoriety the disaster has brought it.

After identifying his brother, Mr Ammerman hoped never to come back to Lockerbie. "I wanted always to remember the carnage, the smell of gaso-



Bert Ammerman, from New Jersey, crosses the field where the Pan Am cockpit fell. His brother was killed in the bombing. Adam Butler

line, the debris and the bodies." But as a leading representative of the American victims' families, he has made a succession of visits in the campaign for answers to the tragedy.

Along the way, he has made friends and seen the town's physical scars heal over. Sherwood Crescent, where Lockerbie's victims were incinerated in their homes, has been rebuilt and looks no different to any other quiet, residential street.

His voice choking, Mr Ammerman told the congregation at Holy Trinity church of the Christmas Eve a decade ago when he sat in the same pew,

"trying to figure out what in God's name was happening". His brother Tommy, who worked for an Arab-owned shipping line, had been on Pan Am flight 103.

His body was found later on the lonely hillside at Tundergarth, four miles from the town where the aircraft's nose cone fell. Now Mr Ammerman feels able to bring his daughters Christine, 21, and Megan, 19, to Scotland to see the town's memorials to the dead.

Mr Ammerman later began an emotional pilgrimage around Lockerbie, starting at Dryfedale cemetery's garden

of remembrance. There he left a bouquet at the memorial inscribed with the names of the victims, and ran his fingers over his brother's name as he said a few words in private.

The card on the bouquet read: "Tommy, you did not die in vain".

Mr Ammerman said another card read: "In loving memory from a loving brother".

Afterwards he said: "In 10 years I have said a lot of things, but today in church and here it is for me personally the most personal and emotional day for 10 years."

He said that the memorial

was a "simple but powerful" one for the 270 victims. Revealing that he had spoken a few words to his dead brother, Mr Ammerman said: "I said, 'You didn't die in vain, we have done the best we can. We're not finished yet but we are near a trial'."

Mr Ammerman hopes that his next trip will be to the Netherlands where, if the Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi hands them over, the two suspects will stand trial under Scottish law. Agreement to a trial in a third country had "boxed the colonel in", according to Mr Ammerman.

He is anxious that the British and American governments do nothing to give Libya a pretext not to hand over the suspects. Western insistence on the pair serving any sentence in a Scottish jail, if convicted, is one big area of concern. The bombardment of Baghdad could also damage prospects for a trial.

Mr Ammerman said he could not quarrel with the action taken by the US and Britain over Iraq, but he admitted "selfishly" he thought it was a setback and was likely to delay any hand-over and arrest of the suspects.

Prescott ire over Lib-Lab deals

BY ANDREW GRICE
Political Editor

JOHN PRESCOTT'S simmering anger at Tony Blair's decision to forge closer links with the Liberal Democrats boiled over in public yesterday.

The Deputy Prime Minister said: "I am not a great fan of it myself. I think if you have a majority of 179, you get on with delivering the promises."

Interviewed on BBC's *Breakfast With Frost*, he defended Mr Blair's discussions with Paddy Ashdown over constitutional reform but deliberately stopped short of backing their recent agreement to extend it to other policy issues.

"We are a separate party," he said. "I am not a great man for coalitions." Asked if he might end up sitting in the same Cabinet as Mr Ashdown, Mr Prescott replied humbly: "Not under the way I have described it."

The Deputy Prime Minister's comments will not come as a surprise to Mr Blair. At a Christmas party for Labour staff, Mr Prescott is said to have joked that the party would turn into the New Democrats in 10 years. But Mr Blair will be worried that his deputy has publicly voiced his doubts. They emerged as Mr Ashdown faced a fresh burst of criticism from his party's ranks over his agreement with Mr Blair to extend co-operation between the parties.

In a pamphlet published today by the Centre for Reform think-tank, two senior Liberal Democrat figures expressed fears that the party will lose its distinctive identity.

Lord Wallace, a frontbench spokesman on foreign affairs, also said that although Mr Blair's strategy sought to "absorb" the Liberal Democrats, he believed the final destinations of the two parties would remain separate.

Neil Stockley, the Liberal Democrats' former director of policy, said: "The [Liberal Democrat] party must develop its own distinctive, branded political message."

RUC sweeps waste ground for corpses

POLICE IN Belfast have begun a search for the bodies of two men, believed to have been abducted and killed by the IRA in the city 20 years ago.

Royal Ulster Constabulary officers yesterday broke up concrete steps at Glencollin Way, an area of open ground close to houses in the republican west Belfast district. This followed an investigation of the area on Saturday, when police used devices similar to mine detectors to scan the ground.

According to one unconfirmed report, the search followed a telephone tip-off to a relatives' group, which may have come from the IRA.

The development has raised hopes of progress in finding the bodies of more than a dozen people missing since the Seventies, who have come to be known as "the disappeared".

BY DAVID MCKITTRICK
Ireland Correspondent

The present operation is a search for the bodies of Brian McKinney, 22, and John McClory, 18, who vanished in west Belfast in 1978. They are assumed to have been killed and buried by the IRA.

McKinney's mother, Margaret, said: "The search gives me some hope and I prefer this to nothing - at least something is being done. But I am wary of being too hopeful. I have been left shattered too many times in the past."

"I do feel that Brian is buried somewhere in that area and I hope that this search will bring results. I just want his body to be found. I want to be like every other mother of victims of the Troubles, to have a grave that I can visit and tend."

Many families of the disappeared have been involved in a four-year campaign, pressing the IRA to reveal where their relatives are buried, but progress has been slow.

The IRA recently admitted that the burials had caused "incalculable anguish to their families" but claimed that pinpointing the graves was extremely difficult because of changes in IRA leadership, the deaths of some of its members and the passage of time.

More than 170 paramilitary prisoners, both loyalist and republican, will be released from prison this week for the annual 10 days' home leave. With more than 200 already freed under the terms of the Good Friday Agreement, this means that fewer than 100 inmates will remain behind bars at Christmas.

Archbishop attacks Dome

THE MILLENNIUM Dome is a symbol of man's arrogance that contrasts starkly with the humble birth of Christianity 2,000 years ago, the Archbishop of York, Dr David Hope, said yesterday.

The Archbishop made an impassioned attack on the controversial project, calling for Christians to remember the humble origins of Christmas.

Dr Hope drew a contrast between the nativity and what he calls the "self-glorification

BY CATHY COMBERFORD

of man" which he said the Dome represents. "What a stark contrast there is here with the way in which it is proposed we are to celebrate in a year's time the second millennium of this birth," he said in a newspaper interview.

"The great humility of the manger has now become the hubris of a dome, a dome to celebrate the apotheosis of man rather than the glory of God ...

"The celebration and preparation for the second millennium of the Saviour's birth ought to be a ... recognition of our human fragility, frailty and finiteness."

His words are likely to inflame feelings among some Christians that the Dome lacks a Christian emphasis.

Dr George Carey, Archbishop of Canterbury, appeared unmoved by the latest Dome row yesterday and was said to be fully supportive of the project.

IN BRIEF

Branson balloon dodges storms

AFTER SURVIVING a night of fierce storms, the Virgin entrepreneur Richard Branson and his crew soared over central Asia last night heading for the Himalayas on day three of their attempt to circle the globe in a balloon. "Somebody was looking over us last night," Mr Branson said. "We not only missed the storm but also missed Iraq by 60 miles, Iran by seven miles and Russia by 10 miles."

Police car swept away in flood

TWO POLICE officers escaped injury when their patrol car was washed away in a flash flood in Cornwall on Saturday night. The officers climbed out of a window and on to the roof of their car after it was swept 100 metres downstream in the Gweek area. They then managed to leap to dry land. The car reportedly filled with water.

Nobel prizewinner dies at 84

PROFESSOR ALAN Hodgkin, one of Britain's most distinguished biologists, has died aged 84, his family said yesterday. Sir Alan won the Nobel Prize for medicine in 1963 with Professor Andrew Huxley and Sir John Eccles. They discovered how nerve cells transmit electrical impulses from the skin to the brain and back again.

Mummified body found in Suffolk

A MAN'S BODY found at a beauty spot was mummified and he may have been dead for years, detectives said yesterday. The man, thought to be in his twenties, was found on Friday at Fen Meadow Park, Woodbridge, Suffolk. A post-mortem examination failed to uncover any obvious cause of death and officers have no idea of the man's identity.

Five share £11.8m lottery prize

THE WINNING numbers in Saturday night's National Lottery £11.8m jackpot draw were 9, 10, 18, 25, 28, 48, with 34 the bonus. Five entries shared the first prize, winning £2.3m each.

STEVEN BERKOFF



Madness for actors is par for the course, but great actors are extremely sane

IN THE MONDAY REVIEW

PAGE 4



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Rattle to quit Labour's musical desert



Sir Simon Rattle: 'We spend our time jumping through hoops trying to prove our right to exist'

Steve Hill

SIR SIMON Rattle, Britain's greatest living conductor and an outspoken critic of Labour's policy towards arts funding, has revealed that he intends to leave the country.

Sir Simon, 43, who left the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra (CBSO) in August, has previously voiced his frustration at the low priority given to music teaching in schools and the paucity of arts funding. The conductor's plans for his future are disclosed in *Simon Rattle: Moving On*, a BBC2 documentary to be broadcast next Sunday. During an interview he said: "I wouldn't be surprised if, whatever the next job I took on, it was not here in Britain. There are a lot of extraordinary things happening in Europe, where they have the facilities to do it."

Friends of Sir Simon's, including the pianists Alfred Brendel and Imogen Cooper and the baritone Thomas Allen, also appear on the programme to talk

BY JANE HUGHES

about the conditions that would encourage him to stay.

The conductor's comments have been interpreted by arts world insiders as an attempt to put pressure on the Government for more resources. In reality, there are few jobs in British classical music that would suit such a high-profile and independently minded figure and Sir Simon already has freelance commitments around the world. Speculation about his future has been rife since he left the CBSO after 18 years. The Berlin Philharmonic has been a possibility but it is unlikely to offer him the post of musical director unless sure he would accept.

The Vienna Philharmonic, with whom he has agreed a recording and touring deal, is another possibility. The orchestra's £10m annual grant is five times the public subsidy awarded to the four London or-

chestras, but it does not have a musical directorship post.

Sir Simon was also linked to the cash-strapped Royal Opera House before the current musical director, Bernard Haitink, decided to rescind his resignation and stay on another year.

All the American orchestras are desperate to woo him: last year, the Philadelphia Orchestra said it would have loved to hire him and Cleveland offered to build him an opera house. But working in the United States would be unlikely to offer Sir Simon the free reign in programming that he enjoyed in Birmingham and which allowed him to turn the orchestra into a world-class act.

As Curtis Price, the principal of the Royal Academy of Music, pointed out, one of Sir Simon's greatest achievements has been to build up a loyal public "with 100 per cent capacity in most concerts, however adventurous the programming". Against a back-

drop of falling London audiences, his departure would be a massive blow to the international standing of British classical music. Indeed a group of his supporters have become so concerned that they want to create a new concert hall and orchestra to encourage him to stay.

Sir Simon warned recently: "Running a British orchestra is wonderful but very hard. We spend our time jumping through hoops trying to prove our right to exist at all."

Recently his vision of a millennium arts festival in Birmingham came under threat as the Millennium Commission and the Arts Council backed away from providing more than 55m in funding for the project.

Wherever the conductor goes, however, he is unlikely to sever all links with Britain. A post in Berlin would take less than six months a year and he is scheduled for appearances in Birmingham until 2003.

THE ARTISTIC OPPOSITION

Andrew Lloyd Weber was said to have threatened to leave Britain if Labour won the election, a claim he denied. Lord Lloyd-Weber, composer of a string of West End hits, including *Evita* and *Cats*, was angered by an early day motion claiming his reported intention was an incentive to vote Labour.



Sir Peter Hall, one of Britain's greatest theatre directors, is heading for Los Angeles to direct a Shakespeare season after his bid for £500,000 Arts Council funding for the Old Vic was turned down. Sir Peter was apparently told that there was already "enough serious theatre in London".



Damon Albarn of the pop group Blur was among the cream of Cool Britannia's music industry who turned against the Government in the *New Musical Express* in March, criticising Labour's policy on further education and the Welfare to Work plans among others.



Memory is damaged by ecstasy

THE FIRST evidence has emerged of long-term memory damage caused by ecstasy, the drug taken by thousands of young people at rave clubs across Britain.

A study of ecstasy users in the United States found that they suffered significant memory loss several weeks after they stopped taking the drug.

"Our study shows ecstasy can be associated with memory damage," said Karen Bolla, associate professor of neurology at Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Centre in Baltimore.

"The main message is that heavy use of ecstasy can affect memory and these effects can persist after it has left the body," Dr Bolla said.

The scientists compared 24 ecstasy users with a group of youngsters who had never taken the drug and found that the users suffered a significantly impaired ability to recall what they had seen or heard.

Those who took part had to be drug free for at least two weeks before being tested to ensure that withdrawal symptoms did not affect the results, which are to be published in the *Journal of Neurology*.

George Ricaurte, another member of the Johns Hopkins team, said all types of memory were affected. "Tests show that heavy ecstasy users have damage to their visual and verbal memory," he said.

Visual memory allows a person to recall objects they had seen earlier and verbal memory is the ability to remember information read aloud.

"Men were affected more than women, which may be due to differences in the way the brain works in the two sexes or because of hormonal influ-

BY STEVE CONNOR
Science Editor

ences, such as oestrogen having a protective influence," Professor Bolla said.

The study linked heavy ecstasy use with a fall in serotonin levels, a crucial chemical messenger in the brain. Professor Bolla said they defined heavy users as those who took more than one ecstasy pill a week.

An analysis of the cerebral spinal fluid of users showed that ecstasy can damage the nerve cells in the brain that produce serotonin, which regulates memory as well as mood, appetite perception, pain, sexual activity and sleep, Professor Bolla said.

Ecstasy, the common name for the chemical MDMA, is structurally similar to mescaline, a natural hallucinogenic drug, and amphetamine, which acts as a stimulant.

People who take ecstasy say they experience euphoria and happiness but the drug is also associated with feelings of lethargy and depression. It has been linked with a number of deaths in otherwise healthy young people.

A recent survey found that 13 per cent of university students had taken ecstasy, which first became popular on the clubbing scene in 1988.

Professor Andy Parrott, head of psychology at the University of East London, told a conference in London earlier this month that the more the drug is studied, the more problems are uncovered.

"The strands of evidence we can pull together suggest that MDMA may indeed be neurotoxic for humans. What we don't yet know is how long-term those problems are," he said.

STUCK FOR LAST MINUTE CHRISTMAS INSPIRATION?

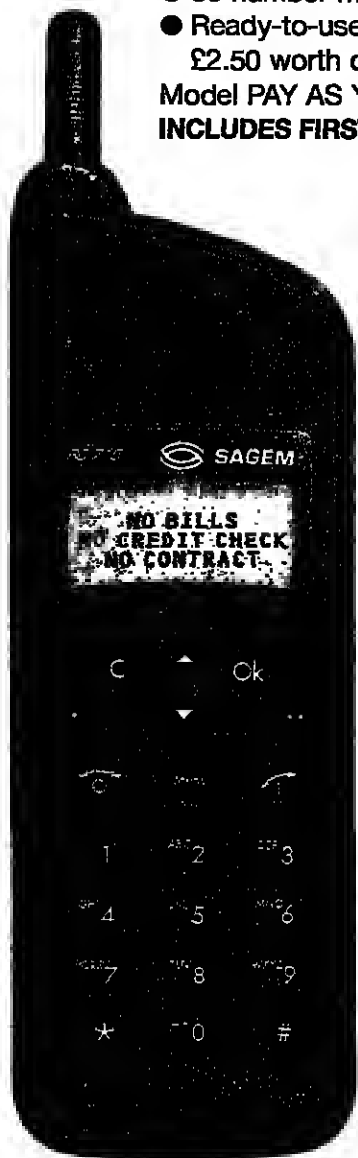
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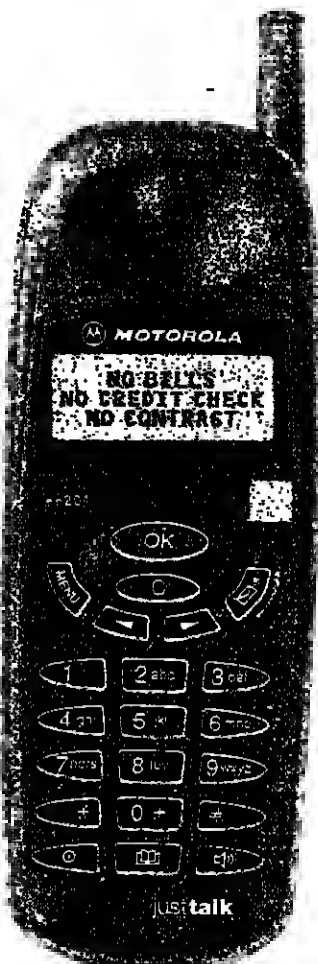
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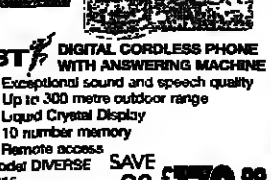
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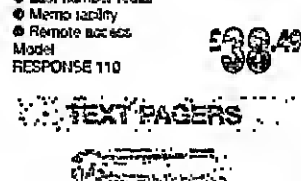


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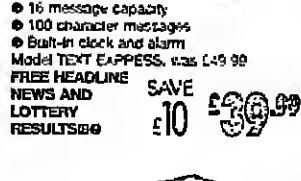
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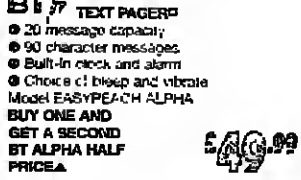
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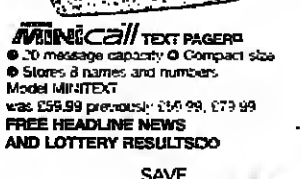
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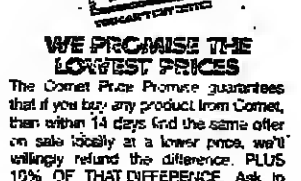
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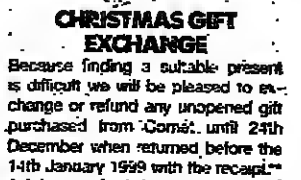
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Briton jailed over heroin faces retrial

A BRITISH woman who tried to smuggle heroin out of Pakistan is facing the possibility of a further 10 years in a Karachi jail - despite having already served her prison sentence.

The Foreign Office is investigating the case of Rosemarie Morley, 31, a single mother. She was due to return to Britain earlier this month after her time in prison. Her treatment at the hands of the Pakistani authorities, who plan to try her again for the same crime, is a violation of human rights, international law and Pakistan's constitution, say British legal campaigners.

Ms Morley and her boyfriend, Markus Mifed, both from London, were caught at Karachi airport with 2.8kg of heroin each in July last year. The drugs were hidden in the mechanism of their suitcases.

Although the couple insisted they did not know what the packages in their luggage contained, they pleaded guilty to smuggling the drugs, believing their sentences would be lighter. Ms Morley, who suffers from clinical depression, was sentenced to three years and nine months in prison but had been due for early release on 11 December, after winning remission for teaching English to children in Karachi Juvenile Jail where she is held.

In September this year she learnt that she was to be charged again over the same incident, but this time with possession of drugs, rather than smuggling.

Rana Shamim, her legal representative in Karachi, said the charges had been brought under a new Pakistani law,

BY CATY COMERFORD

which allows for someone who has been convicted of drug smuggling to be charged with possession and the case registered a second time.

Mr Shamim said: "We are challenging this in the High Court as a direct violation of the constitution. This law has not yet been tested but it contravenes article 13a of the constitution, which says no person shall be prosecuted or pun-



Rosemarie Morley: Could be jailed for second time

ished for the same crime more than once."

Stephen Jakobi, founder of Fair Trials Abroad, which is campaigning on Ms Morley's behalf, said: "It is established in British and international law that a person cannot be tried again for the same offence."

He added that other British nationals and Europeans had suffered similar miscarriages of justice in Pakistan. "I am particularly concerned for Rose-

marie Morley because I understand she has been clinically depressed and because she is a single parent," he said. "But there are others."

Ms Morley's eight-year-old son, Matthew, has been staying with his grandparents Eric and Lorna in London. The family had expected her to be home for Christmas. Mr Morley, 67, said: "She is a bit headstrong, but she is a good girl, a good mother."

"We were all geared up to having her home. Then we heard about this other girl who pleaded guilty a second time, thinking it would get it over with, and got 10 years."

"We are afraid this might happen to Rosemarie."

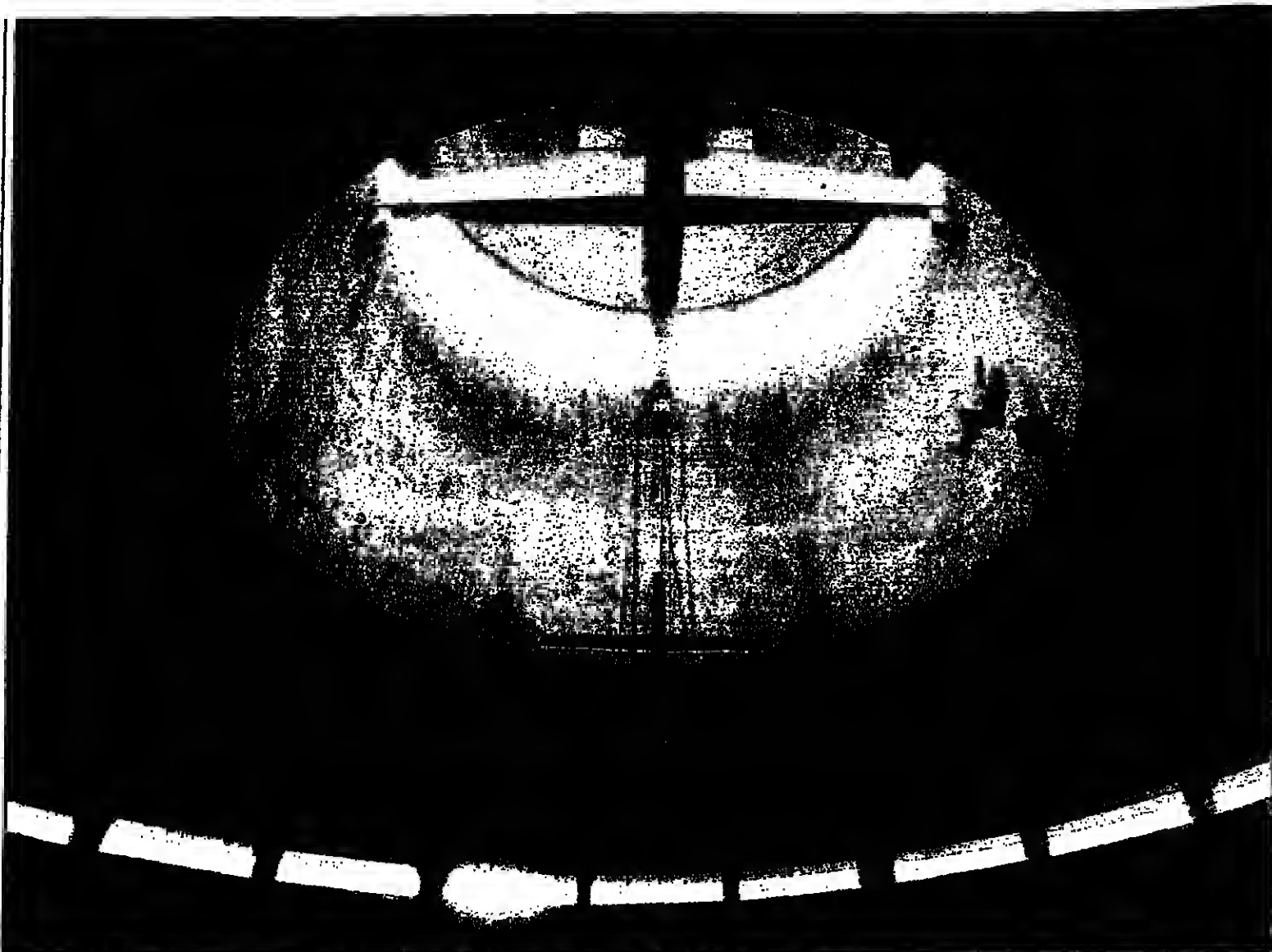
A second British national, Mark Cornish, 37, also convicted of smuggling heroin, could face a second charge despite, having already served 18 months in jail.

His mother, Shirley Dunning, from Croydon in Surrey, said: "He was sentenced to four years but got remission."

"I phoned the consulate to try to get a release date and they said, 'Don't bother. As soon as he is released he will be rearrested.'"

A Foreign Office spokesman said: "We are aware of the cases of Rosemarie Morley and Mark Cornish. We do not believe that it is good criminal justice practice to try two similar offences arising out of the same facts separately."

"We need to determine exactly what Rosemarie and Mark are charged with and if and how these charges differ from the previous charges and also why they are now being charged with these offences."



Climbers hanging from the central lantern of Worth Abbey, near Crawley in West Sussex. Monks at the Benedictine abbey, designed by Francis Pollen, have been unable to clean the windows or the crucifix since the lantern was completed in 1974. John Voos

Nasa probe approaches asteroid

THE FINAL approach has begun to put a spacecraft in orbit around an asteroid for the first time, in a manoeuvre that could one day result to robots mining the mineral-rich rocks of space.

It will also be used to test ways of landing rockets on asteroids that are in danger of colliding with Earth, to shift them into safer orbits.

Scientists from the American National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa) yesterday fired the rocket engines of a space probe flying beyond Mars to accelerate it towards its final target: Eros, an asteroid the size of London.

By the end of next month the Near spacecraft will have come alongside its quarry and begun the complex series of manoeuvres designed to bring it within a few miles of the surface. The Near probe, which cost £138m, will for the next 12 months photograph, measure, monitor and map Eros from orbit to make it the most studied asteroid to date.

At the end of the year-long mission, in the first weeks of the new millennium, Nasa scientists hope to bring the probe to within a few feet of Eros, and even test land it on the asteroid's rock-hard surface.

BY STEVE CONNOR
Science Editor

The most difficult part of the mission began yesterday with a main engine burn to accelerate the spacecraft towards a rendezvous with the faster-moving asteroid.

Carl Filcher, a Nasa scientist, said that knowing more about asteroids and how to approach them may one day be useful if the Earth is ever threatened by a collision. "It is prudent to learn the properties of these objects, if one day we find one with our name on it and we have to do something about it," he said.

Scientists estimate there are about 1,500 asteroids that pass close enough to Earth and are big enough to pose a threat if they



An artist's impression of the £139m Near probe

ever hit the planet. A small asteroid just 33ft wide exploded over the Tunguska region of Siberia in 1908, destroying over half a million acres of forest. In 1996, an asteroid 0.25 miles wide and weighing 50 million tonnes came within 400,000 miles of

Earth, passing the same point in space just six hours apart.

Eros, a potato-shaped body 26 miles long and 9 miles wide, is 240 million miles away and poses no threat to Earth. But it offers scientists the best opportunity to find out more about the mysterious lumps of rock left over from the formation of the planets.

Eros is an S-type asteroid composed of silicates enriched with metallic iron. The analysis of its composition will help to determine the part it played in the birth and evolution of the solar system, said Professor William Boynton, a Nasa scientist at Arizona University.

"This is the first time ever a spacecraft will orbit an asteroid. There have been fly-bys and

snapshots, but not much in the way of quantitative scientific data," he said.

Robert Farquhar, of the Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, where some of the Near instruments were built, said: "What we know of asteroids is very limited. But now we're going to go into orbit around an asteroid and study it intensely for a year. We expect to get astounding information."

Although Eros is 240 million miles from Earth, the Near probe has travelled more than 1.5 billion miles since its launch in February 1996. It has flown an indirect route, which included a return trip to Earth to use the planet's gravitational pull as a "slingshot" to throw the probe back into space.

Call to cut diesel damage

BRITAIN WILL today propose a massive Europe-wide cutback in particulates, one of the most harmful air pollutants.

The microscopic particles of soot and other matter can collect deep in the lungs. They are thought to trigger up to 8,000 premature deaths a year in the UK alone in people with respiratory and heart diseases.

The principal source of particulates is diesel engines in lorries, buses and coaches.

In Brussels today the Environment minister, Michael Meacher, will be urging his

BY MICHAEL MCCARTHY
Environment Correspondent

counterparts from other EU member states to adopt strict new particulate limits, which would mean special emissions-reduction technology fitted to all new heavy diesel-engined vehicles in Europe by 2005.

Europe's green ministers are already likely to agree that there should be a 30 per cent cutback on the current levels of particulate emissions from new vehicles from 2000, and the European Parliament has

called for a further 50 per cent cutback by 2005. But Britain wants the further reduction to be even tougher, at 80 per cent.

Other member states with heavy vehicle industries, especially Italy, are likely to oppose the plan on the grounds that it would be too expensive and difficult. But the Government believes the technology already exists to allow it and says it is not prohibitively expensive.

Also on the agenda will be tough new limits for another heavy vehicle pollutant, oxides of nitrogen, known as Nox.



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MILLENNIUM BUG WATCH



A BIG concern among companies is whether their suppliers and customers will be "millennium compliant". This has led to a blizzard of post as companies send letters to anyone whose address is on any of their databases demanding to know how, when and for how long they will be able to deal with the years beyond 1999.

A few of those letters have arrived on this desk and immediately been filed in the bin. But some firms have been responsive. A notable letter comes from Ahead Software, about its Nero software, and was reported by Computing magazine. "Nero will properly process dates beyond 31 December 1999," the letter began. "However, Nero will not be able to read CDs with file dates beyond 32 December 1999 correctly. The file date will be displayed incorrectly. This is a Dos problem and not caused by Nero."

Quite. But is it more or less worrying that the letter was signed by a human rather than being entirely computer-generated?

CHARLES ARTHUR
Tips, tales to:
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My day-long ordeal as a 75-year-old

BY JACK O'SULLIVAN

I THOUGHT the morning after the Christmas office party, that I knew what it was like to be 75. But that was before I was given an old age makeover, designed by gerontologists.

In a few moments, using cheap and easily available materials, they took me, a 37-year-old man, and transformed me into a vulnerable, isolated old person, fumbling at the simplest of tasks.

For any man, hoping not to turn into his father, it was a depressing experience. It left me feeling that there is no escape from that fate. But it was also illuminating. I understood a little better what life is like for my dad. I'll be less critical in future.

We started with the eyes. Anne Parr, from Age Concern, which supplies the ageing kits, fitted me with goggles, which gave me tunnel vision. It is, she said, a common handicap, springing from high blood pressure or a stroke.

To this she added a weighted strap around my right wrist, simulating loss of muscle strength and another around my left ankle as though, after a stroke, that side had become slightly leaden.

A double pair of surgical gloves helped me to appreciate a diminished sense of touch that comes with age as well as making my joints stiffen as the gloves warmed up.

And the final element was earplugs. "From 25," explained Ms Parr, "there is a slight loss of pitch and tone, but it is so gradual that you don't notice it." I certainly noticed the earplugs. It was not just that conversation around me was muffled. I felt cut off from Ms Parr and our photographer as I caught snippets of the conversation about as well as if I was lying head down in the bath. And, as I withdrew, lost in concentrating on what was going on, they seemed to ignore me, like some old person, passive, in the corner.

We ventured out. The plan was to test myself on Oxford Street and buy a dressing gown, my Christmas present for my dad, who is 78. I thought, if I could step into his skin for a few hours, perhaps I might also choose his attire as well. It was frightening to step out, like the first time you let go



APPEAL

of the side at a swimming pool. The light seemed so bright, a complaint that many older people have, explained Ms Parr, which is why so many wear shaded glasses. And I couldn't tell immediately where either she or the photographer was, lost in the mêlée around me. The combination of poor vision and muffled hearing made the world seem unsafe. Edging on to a zebra crossing was an act of faith. I began to understand why older people stay in their homes, take refuge in familiarity and how brave those are who boldly carry on with the busy life I take for granted.

I also gained a glimpse behind those grim old faces you sometimes see walking purposefully, head down, along the street, oblivious to all around them. I had always assumed that illness, grief or simply fear of death had etched such a humourless expression on some faces.

But there is another factor - determination. When you can't hear or see properly and your limbs don't seem to co-ordinate quite as they should, you become single-minded. I found myself staring at the pavement, making sure that I didn't trip. There was no time to window-shop, admire the crispness of the day, look at the Christmas lights or flirt with a beautiful woman.

I know London's Tube stations well and travel on them daily. Yet that grim determination also seemed necessary to counter a sense of disorientation, as I searched for the right escalator, as I was jostled by rushing younger people. Even finding the right moosey for the fare was a problem, as my gloved hands couldn't distinguish the coins in my pocket. Had I just dropped a tenner on the ground? I wondered, peering around my feet like Mr Magoo.

Oxford Street was a blur and staring into shop windows was too much trouble. The de-

partment stores where I hoped to buy the dressing gown seemed vast and mysterious as I searched for some indication of where the men's clothing department was (I now know why my dad just sends cheques at Christmas).

Fortunately, Ms Parr was there to guide me through the hubbub, as I grew increasingly into one of those apparently passive, dependent, elderly people who seem to have handed over their lives to a more youthful companion.

As it happened, we had wasted our time. I could not tell, by touch, the difference between a silk dressing gown and a cheap cotton one.

"Can we stop for coffee," I asked, echoing my father's words whenever he goes shopping. The relief of sitting down and becoming orientated was wonderful. Yet as I ate my pastry I had no idea whether I was spilling crumbs down my front and humiliating myself further.

Ms Parr, who uses the "Through Other Eyes" kit on company executives to give them insight into their customers, reassured me that it isn't quite this bad to be infirm. It happens slowly, she said. You adapt gradually.

But as I took a breather on my way home and chatted to Alan Burley, 73, on a day trip to Oxford Street from Hull, I could only admire his courage and determination. "You're a hero," I told him.



A prematurely aged Jack O'Sullivan discovering the problems of coping with tunnel vision on London's escalators Andrew Buurman

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Earliest church discovered in Red Sea port

ARCHAEOLOGISTS HAVE discovered the world's oldest known purpose-built church - and are predicting even older ones will be found in the future.

The discovery, in the Jordanian Red Sea port of Aqaba, pushes back Christian architectural history by several decades. Built between 293 and 303, the building pre-dates the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem and the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, both built in the late 320s.

The Aqaba church is the first purpose-built Christian place of worship discovered from the period before Christianity found favour with the Roman imperial government. Indeed, it pre-dates the greatest of all the Roman anti-Christian persecutions, which was carried out in the reign of Diocletian in 303-313.

Constructed in the form of a large east-west oriented basilica, with apse and aisles, the building also had a narthex, a chancel screen as well as an adjoining cemetery. Excavations have unearthed walls up to 4.5 metres high and a col-

lection box with coins. "The discovery is very significant for the history of Christian architecture and of Christianity itself," said the director of the excavation, Professor Thomas Parker, of North Carolina State University.

Historical texts indicate that there were many more such churches built, according to Professor Parker. "It is quite possible, even likely, that other late third-century churches may soon be discovered."

Likely locations include Antioch, Ephesus and Nicomedia (all now in Turkey), Sidon and Tyre (Lebanon), and Alexandria and Carthage (North Africa).

Aqaba church appears to have been abandoned during the great persecution of 303-313, then refurbished sometime between 313 and 330. It was destroyed by an earthquake in 363. During its first phase, the church would have held about 60 worshippers. After the Great Persecution, phase two would have allowed it to hold up to 100.

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'Peas for votes' storm as St Petersburg goes to polls

THIS IS a very bad time to be a liberal democrat in Russia.

Take several incidents over the past few days alone: a school in the Urals has unveiled a bust of Stalin; Communists have been clamouring for the return of the monument to Felix Dzerzhinsky, the ruthless founder of the KGB, outside the Lubyanka in downtown Moscow; the mayor of Moscow,

BY PHIL REEVES
in Moscow

Yuri Likhov, a leading presidential candidate, held a week-end congress of his new political party (Fatherland) and announced the era of radical liberal reforms was dead. "The experiment is over," he declared. The liberal democrats themselves - a mixed bag ranging

from opportunist free-marketters to genuine liberals - are in shock caused by the murder a month ago of one of their leading lights in parliament, Galina Starovoitova, adviser to Boris Yeltsin in the perestroika era. Their influence has shrivelled. And anti-Semites have been spouting freely in parliament. And yet there is one small corner of hope, in what used to

be the tsars' city of St Petersburg. Yesterday saw the second round of municipal elections in the city - which is, by tradition, a seedbed for Russia's liberal intelligentsia. Democrats were hoping to consolidate gains made after the assassination of Ms Starovoitova. Outrage at her murder was one reason for an unprecedentedly high turn-out of 40

per cent in the election's first round on 6 December, when the anti-communist liberals - notably the Yabloko Party - did well. Underlying this was impatience with runaway corruption and crime in St Petersburg, which has seen repeated assassinations and the evolution of mafia-style criminal gangs who control a large section of business, including cemeteries.

But, while the election results, expected early today, may give democrats a rare cause for celebration, the campaign itself has not. The elections have been marred by some of the dirtiest tactics witnessed in Russian politics. There were allegations that pensioners were given tins of peas for votes; phantom candidates with the same names as

genuine participants appeared on ballot papers. Smears and counter-smears abounded. Whatever the outcome, the so-called democratic camp has a long way to go if it is to do well in national parliamentary elections next year and - crucially - make a credible challenge for the presidency in 2000. After the Starovoitova murder, most of their leading lights

- former prime ministers Yegor Gaidar and Sergei Kiriyenko, and leading ex-ministers Anatoly Chubais, Boris Federov and Boris Nemtsov - announced a coalition. However, a key figure has refused to play ball. Yabloko's leader Grigory Yavlinsky. While he stands apart, the liberal democratic vote, or what's left of it, could be dangerously split.

Expats fight for justice in Italy

EXPATRIATE LECTURERS in Italy say universities are continuing to flout European Union employment law on pay and rights, despite court rulings and an official reprimand from Brussels. They say rather than grant them parity with Italians, universities from Trento to Catania are trying to force them to take pay cuts and sign away their acquired rights. They are being told that if they refuse there will be job losses and restructuring.

Foreign language lecturers have been battling for more than a decade for recognition that they are not just colourful figures there to lend a hand to the real teachers and a touch of authenticity to language courses. In most Italian universities they carry out 90 per cent of the teaching, plus writing, supervising and marking exams. But many of them net as little as one million lire (£357) a month, as opposed to the three million lire of a native Italian.

"One of the most recent breaches was at the Università Federico II in Naples where 19 lecturers received a registered letter telling them to report to

BY FRANCES KENNEDY
in Rome

the personnel office within 48 hours and sign new contracts, which drastically curtailed their salaries and rights. Failure to do so would mean their employment was terminated," said David Petrie, a tenacious Scot, the founder and president of the Association for the Defence of Foreign Lecturers.

From his home in Verona, Mr Petrie directs an incessant flow of faxes, letters, press releases and legal challenges. Over the years his pursuit of justice has become an obsession. Several times he has taken to court his own university in Verona - and won - but is still waiting to see his legal victory translated into reality.

He is not alone. About 1,000 of the estimated 1,500 foreign language lecturers in Italy are involved in legal proceedings.

"The ridiculous thing is that even Italian judges have upheld our claims but the university boards and rectors simply refuse to comply. The ministry says the universities are autonomous but I bet no university back in Britain would ever



David Petrie, a Scot working in Verona, who is challenging the Italian government over the rights of foreign lecturers

Nick Cornish

claim they were above the law," added Mr Petrie.

The trials and tribulations of the *lettore stranieri* go back some years. Foreigners were traditionally employed on annual renewable contracts until their case became a test of EU credibility, regarding the equal treatment of European nationals within each state.

The foreign lecturers won two landmark rulings. The first, at the European Court of Justice in 1995, established that, because Italian lecturers had open-ended contracts, non-nationals should have the

same. "After the 1995 ruling, the authorities simply shifted the goalposts. They offered us new open-ended contracts but for a different job. We are no longer lecturers but *collaboratori linguistici*, linguistic collaborators, on worse wages and conditions than before," Mr Petrie said. In 1996 14 lecturers in Salerno were fired for refusing to sign new contracts. The second sentence declared that the lecturers had been discriminated against and were entitled to back pay including arrears of pension and social security contributions.

A year ago, the European Commission decided to bring a case against Italy before the European Court of Justice regarding the acquired rights of the lecturers. In September, the Commissioner for Employment and Social Affairs, Pádraig Flynn, warned Italy that if "swift and comprehensive action" was not taken to bring foreign lecturers' contracts into line with European law "the Commission would not hesitate to proceed with legal action".

"To placate Brussels, the Ministry for Universities pre-

sented a letter sent to all rectors urging them to fall into line. Yet in a separate note to state lawyers last month, it said the European Commission was well disposed towards 'definitively closing the case' or in layman's terms, dropping it," said Mr Petrie.

However, it appears that the Commission has no intention of letting things slip and at a 2 December meeting it agreed to continue legal proceedings.

While Mr Petrie and his 400-odd followers hope a European solution will guarantee their status and conditions, other

foreign lecturers are battling through the Italian union system.

"It's really getting out of hand," said John Gilbert, a New Yorker teaching in Florence and a member of CGIL, Italy's largest trade union. "University after university is resorting to bully tactics. They put lecturers in a position where if they want their legally won rights to be respected they have to accept that another colleague may lose his job through restructuring." The overall losers are not only we lecturers but also our students," he said.

Kosovo fighters at mass funeral

BY PAUL WOOD

THE TROUBLED Serbian province of Kosovo saw more violence yesterday even as thousands of mourners turned out for the funeral of 36 ethnic Albanians killed in a border clash with the security forces.

The hurials came at the end of a week of violence, which has claimed the lives of at least 46 people. In the latest clash yesterday, Serbian sources said that two ethnic Albanians were wounded and four arrested after firing on a police patrol from a passing car.

About one thousand fighters of the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) were among the several thousand ethnic Albanian mourners who went to the tiny village of Poljanec for the funeral. The authorities said the men shot were KLA members trying to smuggle weapons into the province. Soon after that incident, six young Serbs were shot dead in a bar in the western city of Pec, and the Serbian deputy mayor of Kosovo Polje was killed.

Serbs in Kosovo yesterday demanded the return of the security forces withdrawn under the threat of Nato air strikes in October, to protect them. They ended three days of protest in the capital, Pristina, after an announcement that the Serbian Interior Minister would visit later today to hear their demands.

Western diplomats largely blame the rebel KLA, not the Serbs, for the increased tension in Kosovo. One official said it was clear the KLA had been moving steadily to take advantage of the Serbian withdrawal made under threat of Nato air strikes.

Matador legend dies, aged 66

SPAIN WAS in mourning yesterday for Antonio Ordóñez, one of the last great matadors of bullfighting's golden age of the 1950s and 1960s, a friend of Orson Welles and an inspiration for Ernest Hemingway.

Spanish newspapers gave front-page coverage to Ordóñez's death on Saturday. One, *La Razón*, relegated Clinton's impeachment to the foot of the page in favour of a sepiá photo

BY ELIZABETH NASH
in Madrid

of their hero in his suit of lights.

Government ministers, the Peruvian writer Mario Vargas Llosa and Spain's grandest grandee, the Duchess of Alba, were among hundreds who paid their respects at Seville town hall, where his body was laid in state yesterday. The Duchess's daughter married

Ordóñez's grandson, the matador Francisco Rivera Ordóñez, in October in a ceremony broadcast live on state television and billed as the social event of the year.

Despite countless gorings and 27 serious injuries in nearly 30 years, it was cancer that killed Ordóñez at the age of 66. Born in Ronda in 1932, he was the son of a bullfighter, Nino de la Palma, who was the hero of

Hemingway's novel *The Sun Also Rises*. When Ordóñez met the writer, he asked: "Am I as good as my father?" Hemingway replied: "You're better."

Ronda declared three days of official mourning, and black-draped flags flew at half-mast. Ordóñez is to be cremated today and his ashes scattered on the sand of Ronda hugging, the cradle of Spanish bullfighting.

Obituary, Review, page 6



Ordóñez: Countless gorings and 27 serious injuries

Islamists poised to take over in Turkey

TURKEY'S PRIME minister designate, Bulent Ecevit, warned yesterday that his failure to form a government would probably return the Islamist opposition to power.

Mr Ecevit acknowledged on Saturday that he had been unable to put together a coalition since the fall of the conservative-led government last month amid accusations of corruption. He predicted that the collapse of his talks with kicking parliamentary rivals

BY STEVE BRYANT
in Ankara

could bring back Islamists who were forced out of power 18 months ago by the military.

Mr Ecevit, whose talks excluded parliament's largest group, the Muslim-oriented Virtue Party, said: "An interim government, most probably involving Virtue, will be formed."

Mr Ecevit, a secularist who regards Virtue's loyalty to Turkey's constitution as deeply

suspect, yesterday said he would hand back the mandate to form a government to President Suleyman Demirel today.

Mr Demirel must now appoint someone else to form Turkey's sixth government since 1995. Any administration would probably only govern until April, when early elections are scheduled.

Virtue is the successor to the Welfare Party outlawed in January for attempting to subvert the constitution. (Reuters)

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Sofia mafia boss killed

ONE OF the reputed leaders of the Bulgarian mafia was gunned down early yesterday at a villa near the capital, Sofia, police reported.

Ivo Karamanski, 39, had joined a party when a quarrel among guests ended in a shootout, police said. Mr Karamanski and his bodyguard died at the scene. Two other guests were wounded. Police later arrested a 33-year-old man.

Mr Karamanski, a former national rowing champion, ran a prosperous insurance company. In 1986 he was sentenced to two years in jail for fraud. He was believed to be a key figure in Bulgaria's underworld.

Despite his reputation, Mr Karamanski maintained good connections with police and judiciary officials. He once celebrated release from detention by having a cup of coffee in public with the state prosecutor.

He was among the founders of criminal groups set up and controlled by former athletes. In the nine years since Bulgaria threw off Communist rule, many former sports stars have gone from being legitimate bodyguards to operating shady "security" services. (AP)

IN BRIEF

'Bin Laden aide' sent to the US

A SUSPECTED senior aide of Osama bin Laden, the Saudi millionaire accused of organising the bombings at US embassies in East Africa this summer, was turned over to American officials at Munich airport last night for extradition to the US. A spokesman for the Bavarian Justice Ministry said Mamdouh Mahmoud Salim was taken from Stadelheim prison in Munich to the airport and handed over to the Americans.

Israel freezes West Bank transfer

THE ISRAELI Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, won cabinet agreement yesterday for the suspension of peace moves with the Palestinians, setting the scene for a showdown in parliament. There was one abstention to a proposal to freeze the hand-over of West Bank land outlined in the United States-brokered Wye River accord.

Prince accuses 'captive' women

TEN SERVANTS of a Saudi prince, Turki bin Abdel Aziz - a brother of King Fahd - threw a note from their Cairo hotel window, saying they were being held captive. Yesterday eight of the Filipino women were arrested after the prince accused them of theft. They said the prince's allegation was provoked by their complaints.

Tent fire kills 165 buffaloes

A TOTAL of 165 buffaloes and four horses were killed when an electric short circuit set ablaze a grass tent built by nomads in Punjab state, 185 miles north of Delhi. The animals belonged to a man of the Gujjar tribe, which lives mainly in forests. The animals were all charred to death.

JOHN WALSH

'Madam,' I replied coldly, 'Aladdin is about as Christmassy as the Sphinx'

IN THE MONDAY REVIEW PAGE 5



150 من الال



Thai performers staging a 'Light of Asia' show during the closing ceremony of the international Asian Games in Bangkok yesterday AP

Show trial begins of China's top dissident

THE LEADING Chinese dissident still active on the mainland was scheduled for trial this morning in the heavily guarded Peking Number 1 Intermediate People's Court, one day after a labour activist who had served three years in a labour camp was unexpectedly paroled and exiled.

Human rights activists branded the timing of Liu Ni-anchun's release as an attempt by Peking to deflect international criticism from its highest crackdown in three years.

As 50-year-old Mr Liu and his family were bundled on to a North West Airlines flight to the United States yesterday morning, the latest victim of the suppression, Xu Wenli, was preparing for today's court appearance. Notice of the trial was given to Mr Xu's family only on Friday, leaving no time for the court-appointed lawyer to organise his defence.

This year, 55-year-old Mr Xu has become the elder mentor and focus for a disparate group of activists across China, many of whom have been involved in trying to register an independent China Democracy Party. Like two other activists whose brief trials were held last week, Mr Xu will plead not guilty to charges of inciting subversion, but is bound to be convicted. The maximum penalty for the offence is life imprisonment, although no sentences have yet been announced.

In the late Seventies, Mr Xu was a Democracy Wall activist and has already spent 12 years in prison, mostly in solitary confinement.

As he became more outspoken over the course of this year, Mr Xu was taken in for questioning many times but, until his arrest on 30 November, had been released within hours or days.

In particular, Tony Blair was embarrassed during his October visit to the mainland when Mr Xu was detained briefly for questioning, and British aides hurriedly raised the matter with their Chinese hosts.

The current crackdown on dissidents has left European Union governments on the defensive about their optimistic claims earlier this year that "constructive engagement" with China was helping to secure significant improvements in human rights.

The EU this spring controversially abandoned its annual attempt to censure China at the United Nations Human Rights Commission in Geneva.

The parole on medical grounds and exile of Mr Liu follows similar treatment since late 1997 for two other high-profile dissidents, Wang Dan and Wei Jingsheng. China now seems willing to release leading dissidents only if they immediately go into exile.

Mr Liu was arrested in 1995, when Peking clamped down on labour activists. The following year, his wife learnt he had been sentenced without trial to three years' "re-education through labour" in north-east China. That was subsequently extended by a year. As Mr Liu's health deteriorated, his wife, Chu Hailan, campaigned to bring his case to the attention of the outside world.

Mr Xu's wife, He Xintong, has been similarly fearless, also putting herself at risk.

Ding dong! Time for Christmas baksheesh

ON MY FRONT door in Nizamuddin, I have just hung up a huge red and green wreath, made from dried chilli peppers, to spice up my holiday mood and to discourage a marauding monkey who has been mooching around our neighbourhood.

He won't nibble on these Christmas goodies more than once, that's for sure.

Christmas Day is a national holiday in India when all offices shut, and Christmas Eve is one of the biggest nights for middle-class families to dine out, topped only by New Year's Eve.

Many Indians look forward to a Christmas bonus and Christmas break.

While politically correct friends send me their family photos stamped, inoffensively, "Season's Greetings" and the New Agers command me by e-mail to "Make it a peaceful Winter Solstice, man", I am mired in Christmas chaos here in the Indian capital.

Cultural fusio often sparks confusion, and this year we have the Islamic holy month of Ramadan coinciding with Chanukah, Christmas and the birthday of the 10th Sikh Guru, Gobind Singh.

To complicate matters even further, more than 10,000 bridegrooms, mounted on white steeds and each preceded by a brass band and a gaggle of relatives, hit the streets last week when the astrological alignment of the stars was declared especially auspicious for weddings.

But not to worry. Celebrating is what the denizens of Delhi do best.

The colder it is outside, the hotter the entertainment gets, and the mercury here has dropped to a chilly 6C.

Festive fairy lights sparkle in the hedges, whisky drinkers warm their hands around charcoal braziers and loud-speakers crackle at maximum volume.

Shahbaz, the melancholy emcee, is sporting imported fluorescent green eyeshadow to make a bigger impact at the wedding parties he stalks.

Because of so much winter fog, the hijra entertainer is now too hoarse to sing out blessings for cash. "What to do?" he shrugs. "My dancing is still there. And I thank Allah for this Ramadan fast. The nights come much quicker than in summer."

With two other hijras, who resemble pantomime dames on the skids, Shahbaz huddles in an open rickshaw and heads towards a wedding reception down the road.

The cloth sides of the shamiana, done up like an ersatz Taj Mahal, seem to

CITY LIFE DELHI



A Christmas tree spreads the word in Delhi

perity. Lights and tinsel glitter at the markets, punctuated by paper star lanterns fashioned with a pop-up nativity scene.

These Christmas sentiments pre-date any nostalgia for the plum cakes and plummy voices of the British Raj, and so many acquired customs make a curious mix.

Local Christians believe the Apostle Thomas rowed ashore in Madras. When the Jesuit missionary St Francis Xavier arrived in the 16th century, there already was a long-established church in India. Today, most of the Indian elite know every carol by heart after childhoods spent in English-language boarding schools run by Christian clergy. Satellite television whips up the frenzy even further.

Such enthusiasm may seem odd, given that only about 2 per cent of Indians are Christians, but the birthday of Jesus is just one more reason for a party alongside these 25 million believers.

The Sivanaoda Yoga Vedanta Nataraja Centre, for instance, holds an annual Bible reading, Christmas feast and gift exchange for all its members and keeps room on the eclectic altar of idols for Christian icons.

The centre believes in pluralism - the more gods the merrier. Emanuel Bakshe, a Christian convert, sets up a tiny manger scene every year and never leaves out three odd figures. Mingled with the wise men and shepherds are a plastic Santa, a small rubber Mahatma Gandhi with silver glitter on his loincloth, and a miniature Indira Gandhi, like Cruella De Vil in a sari.

Sometimes, the unfamiliar symbolism goes awry. I spied an extravagant wreath of bogus pine boughs that featured an especially grisly crucifix - all done up with a red satin how that exactly matched the colour of the blood droplets.

But whether it's a "Merry Christmas" or even a "Happy Krishna", I know every minor acquaintance in Delhi will phone me on Christmas Day to wish me well.

JAN MCGIRK

Barbados prepares to ditch the Queen and elect a president

BARBADOS IS preparing to ditch the Queen as head of state and become a republic.

The Caribbean island, home to 250,000 people in a territory of 210 square miles, would follow the neighbouring former British colonies of Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago and Dominica if it accepted the recommendations of a new constitutional report. Sir Henry Forde, the former foreign minister, was appointed by the Barbadian government to head a constitutional commission.

He has delivered a 136-page report, which argues that Barbados should remain in the Commonwealth, but elect its own non-executive president to serve for a seven-year term.

The report proposed that the president, who should be at least 40 years old and a Barbadian, be chosen by an electoral college made up of the speaker of the House of Assembly, 14 MPs and 10 senators.

Sir Henry said his recommendations reflected "a sense of maturity on the part of Barbados that it can function at the highest level".

Sir Henry's report, which has been submitted to Parliament, follows two years of consultation, which took evidence from Barbadians in Britain and North America as well as on the island itself.

Barbados enjoys a degree of economic and political stability which, combined with its natural and climatic charms, ensures that it remains a first-choice tourist destination.

Even though the tourist industry has become the mainstay of the economy and the island's biggest foreign currency earner, Barbados has not developed a dependency culture and Sir Henry paid tribute to the self-reliance of the islanders.

Barbados was capable of properly managing all aspects of its national affairs, he insisted.

"We have had the experience of a succession of native governors, all but one of whom have been local Barbadians, and they have discharged their duties with impartiality and decorum and reflected the people's highest values and aspirations," he said last week.

Sir Henry revealed that most of the Barbadians interviewed felt strongly that the island should do away with the British Privy Council as the court of last appeal. He said the court could be replaced by a Caribbean court of appeals or a Barbadian court if that could not be set up within "a reasonable time".

Barbados gained independence in 1966 after 350 years as a British colony.

Mortgages

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Banking Direct Mortgage Rate Plus (Variable)	8.19% per annum.
Centrebank Mortgage Rate Plus (Variable)	8.19% per annum.
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Rebels overrun diamond capital

BY ALLIEU IBRAHIM KAMARA in Freetown, Sierra Leone

REBELS OVERRAN the diamond capital of Koidu in the east of Sierra Leone on Saturday when West African and allied forces withdrew after fierce fighting, survivors and aid workers said on Sunday.

In Freetown, the West African Econom troops told people to leave the Lumley beach resort on Sunday as artillery fire could be heard in the distance, witnesses said.

The rebels launched their attack on Koidu on Wednesday, but were initially beaten back by the Nigerian-led Econom troops supported by Kamajor traditional hunters.

"The battle continued until early yesterday when the Econom troops and Kamajors pulled back to the outskirts of the town," Alpha Jalloh, 45, a diamond miner, told reporters in Freetown. He was shot in the leg in the fighting and was taken to the capital with other wounded by military helicopter.

Econom officers said they withdrew to limit civilian casualties. "We are giving the civilians a few days to leave the town, then we will strike and crush the rebels," an officer said.

Survivors in Freetown told of bodies lying in the streets. Aid workers said thousands of civilians had fled Koidu. (Reuters)

CHRISTOPHER McEWEN, MANAGING DIRECTOR, TENDRING CONSTRUCTION, NORTH EAST ESSEX

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BUSINESS

BRIEFING

Fleming denies Commerzbank bid

ROBERT FLEMING, one of the UK's last remaining independent investment banks, yesterday moved to squash rumours that it had rejected a £2bn offer from Commerzbank because of opposition to a takeover from its founding family.

Weekend reports suggested that Commerzbank tabled a £2.2-a-share bid for Robert Fleming Group, nearly three times its current market value. In September, however, the reports said the bid was blocked by the Fleming family, which holds a 30 per cent stake.

The bank has also been linked in recent weeks with ABN Amro, JP Morgan and Paribas. A spokesman for Robert Fleming said: "We have had no contact at all with Commerzbank. There has been no bid and no talks. We are not up for sale."

Champagne sales set to fizzle



CONSUMPTION OF champagne is set to rise by a fifth next year as revellers celebrate the end of the millennium. According to Datamonitor, the market research group, demand for champagne is set to jump by 22 per cent in the UK, Germany, France and the US in 1999, with sales of sparkling wine also rising sharply.

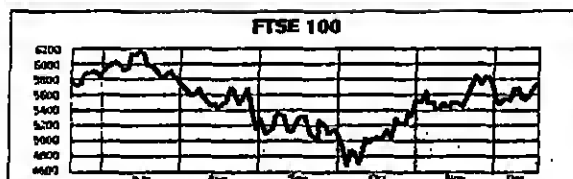
The report raises the prospect of a champagne shortage, with demand possibly exceeding the 320 million bottles which are available around the world. By comparison, however, growth in the demand for beer and next year wine is expected to be relatively modest.

Brand development link-up

THE IDENTICA PARTNERSHIP, the brand development group, is to merge with Tango Design, part of Bartle Bogle Hegarty, the advertising group, in order to concentrate on projecting companies' brands inside shops. The place where consumers buy products – the so-called point of engagement – has traditionally been neglected by advertisers. In the US, however, advertisers spend over \$13bn every year promoting brands at the point of engagement.

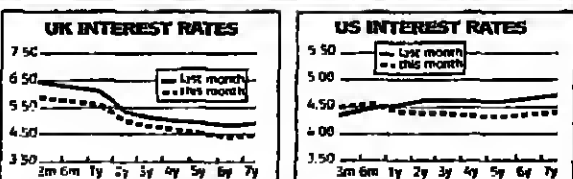
Identica, founded in 1995 by Michael Peters, has £7m turnover and a client base that includes Seagram, Unilever, One2One and Gillette.

STOCK MARKETS



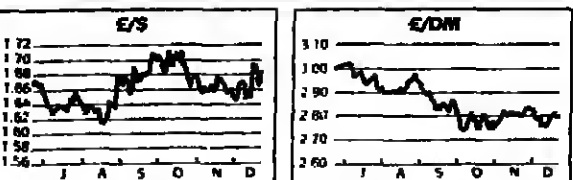
Index	Close	High	Low	Open	52 wk high	52 wk low	YTD %
FTSE 100	4741.90	4800.20	4683.7	4599.2	5070.9	4247.6	...
FTSE 250	2703.60	2770.10	2699.1	2710.4	2886.52	2143.53	...
FTSE All Share	2607.39	2712	2580	2586.52	2886.52	2143.53	...
FTSE SmallCap	2018.00	2100	1977.3	1834.4	2210.4	1634.4	...
FTSE 100 Div	1121.80	1180	1076.1	1046.2	1246.2	904.2	...
FTSE 100 Vol	783.40	850	700	761.3	900	600	...
FTSE EBITDA 100	935.07	1000	850	850	1000	600	...
Dow Jones	8903.63	9187	8793	8900	9300	7400	1.681
Nikkei	14194.29	14315	14077	14252.95	14787.9	13032	1.032
Hong Kong	10228.23	10423	10126	10246	10546	9304	3.046
Dax	4629.23	4703	4571	4617.83	4833.71	4192	1.92

INTEREST RATES



Index	3 month	6 month	9 month	12 month	10 year	30 year	YTD %
UK	5.38	5.38	5.38	5.38	4.43	4.30	-1.94
US	5.23	5.00	5.00	5.00	4.58	5.01	...
Japan	0.49	0.25	0.25	0.18	1.47	0.44	-0.38
Germany	3.32	3.43	3.18	0.86	3.83	1.44	4.71

CURRENCIES



Index	3 month	6 month	9 month	12 month	10 year	30 year	YTD %
£/\$	1.6799	1.6799	1.6799	1.6799	1.6799	1.6799	1.6451
£/DM	2.7955	2.7955	2.7955	2.7955	2.7955	2.7955	1.7987
Yen	194.17	192.31	192.31	192.31	192.31	192.31	130.58
£/Euro	100.70	100.70	100.70	100.70	100.70	100.70	107.90

OTHER INDICATORS

Index	3 month	6 month	9 month	12 month	10 year	30 year	YTD %
Brent Oil (\$)	9.43	9.43	9.43	9.43	9.43	9.43	17.18
Gold (\$)	289.05	289.05	289.05	289.05	289.05	289.05	287.00
Silver (\$)	4.94	4.94	4.94	4.94	4.94	4.94	6.01

TOURIST RATES

Country	Rate	Country	Rate
Australia (\$)	2.6009	Mexican (nuevo peso)	15.23
Austria (schillings)	18.96	Netherlands (guilders)	3.0389
Belgium (francs)	55.71	New Zealand (\$)	3.0839
Canada (\$)	2.5159	Norway (krone)	12.55
Cyprus (pounds)	0.7970	Portugal (escudos)	275.36
Denmark (krone)	10.32	Saudi Arabia (rials)	6.1363
Finland (markka)	8.2645	Singapore (\$)	2.6487
France (francs)	9.5598	Spain (pesetas)	229.30
Germany (marks)	2.7098	South Africa (rand)	9.6152
Greece (drachma)	454.01	Sweden (krone)	13.10
Hong Kong (\$)	12.58	Switzerland (francs)	2.1923
Ireland (pounds)	1.0850	Thailand (bahts)	56.25
India (rupees)	64.33	Turkey (liras)	497979
Israel (shekels)	6.4618	USA (\$)	1.6364
Italy (lira)	2685		
Japan (yen)	189.03		
Malaysia (ringgits)	6.1957		
Malta (lira)	0.6076		

Source: Thomas Cook

Australian group wins NPI auction with £2.7bn deal

AMP, the Australian insurance group, has clinched victory in the battle to buy NPI, the mutual life insurer, in a deal which values the society at £2.7bn and opens the way for policyholders to receive cash windfalls of up to £800 each.

AMP yesterday confirmed it had beaten off stiff competition from other life insurers to win the auction for NPI, which was forced by financial weakness to put itself up for sale at the beginning of October.

Under the offer, NPI's 600,000 policyholders will receive a cash payout of at least £300 each. Among them, over 440,000 who

BY ANDREW VERITY

hold with-profits policies will receive a further cash payout averaging £477. Policyholders will receive further unspecified sums in higher bonuses over the coming years.

The offer will be subject to a poll of qualifying members to be held next spring. NPI said it was unlikely that windfalls would be sent out before late summer.

The Australian group beat off CGU and Britannic, two UK insurers, in the final stage of the race for the insurer after about 15 rival companies expressed an initial interest.

If the deal is approved, NPI will cease to exist as a mutual life office and become a subsidiary of Pearl, the mass market UK life insurer owned by AMP. Alastair Lyons, the chief executive of NPI, will retain his post and has been offered a seat on the British board of AMP.

George Trumbull, chief executive of AMP, said the deal would result in some redundancies because of overlaps with Henderson, the investment manager which AMP bought earlier this year. However, he said these would amount to less than 10 per cent of NPI's 2,300 staff "in the short term".

He added AMP was unlikely to make any further UK acquisitions in the short term. "We are a big python that has just swallowed a bull and we need to stop and digest it."

AMP will in effect pay just £510m in new money for NPI. The rest of the £2.7bn figure consists of £1.4bn in assets from NPI's estate – a sum already owned by NPI's policyholders – and a facility of £800m to bolster the financial strength of NPI's life fund, one of the weakest in the life insurance sector.

Yesterday's announcement marks the end of a two-year

courtship of NPI by the Australian insurer, which first approached the group in early 1997 after losing to Prudential in a similar battle for Scottish Amicable. Alastair Lyons initially resisted AMP's advances and declared that converting to a plc would make policyholders "a means to an end, not an end in themselves".

However, the insurer was forced by a combination of financial weakness and turbulent stock markets to start a competitive auction in October. Swiss Life, one of four insurers to make it through to the due diligence stage,

dropped out in the last three weeks after learning of the scale of funds required to boost NPI's financial strength.

The deal is much less expensive for AMP than it would have been for a foreign office such as Swiss Life, because AMP already owns a UK life insurer. AMP can use the assets of Pearl's life fund to assign the £800m needed to return NPI to financial health.

Ned Cazalet, a senior life insurance consultant, said the windfalls were small comfort to policyholders, given the low bonuses paid on NPI policies in recent years.



The \$9m purchase of two vaccines against nicotine and cocaine could give Cantab access to potentially huge markets. Joe O'Shaughnessy

Cantab set to buy anti-smoking drug

CANTAB PHARMACEUTICALS, the drug development company, will today offer hope to millions of smokers and drug addicts with the \$9m (£5.5m) purchase of two vaccines against nicotine and cocaine.

Cantab is set to reveal that it is buying the two drugs, currently in clinical trials in the US, from the American biotechnology firm ImmunoLogic.

BY FRANCESCO GUERRERA

The acquisition will be funded through the issue of around two million Cantab shares at a slight premium to Friday's closing share price of 202.5p, leaving ImmunoLogic with nearly 6 per cent of the UK group.

The deal will give Cantab, which has a number of other

vaccines in its pipeline, access to two potentially huge markets. Recent research shows that there are 50 million daily smokers in the US alone, 17 million of whom attempt to quit smoking each year. More than \$350m is spent annually on prescription and over-the-counter drugs by people trying to give up nicotine in the US.

The cocaine vaccine will target the millions of heavy users of the drug. In the US, more than two million people use cocaine on a regular basis and 900,000 of them seek treatment each year.

The cocaine vaccine will tar-

get the millions of heavy users of the drug. In the US, more than two million people use cocaine on a regular basis and 900,000 of them seek treatment each year.

The vaccines are designed to generate antibodies that neutralise the effects of the two substances. Experts believe they could have an edge over conventional treatments,

which have a high relapse rate.

Cantab has also agreed to pay ImmunoLogic a further \$11m if the two vaccines successfully complete Phase II clinical trials – the intermediate stage of drugs testing. In return, ImmunoLogic will transfer \$6m in cash to Cantab to fund the development of the two compounds until the end of the year 2000.

Deflation 'to hit in 2002'

BRITAIN FACES the prospect of negative inflation within four years – the first period of falling prices in more than half a century – according to a leading economic think-tank.

In a gloomy report, the Centre for Economics and Business Research (CEBR) predicts that inflation in the UK will fall to minus 0.2 per cent in the year 2002 after slowing to 0.2 per cent in 2001.

The fall in prices – also known as deflation – will be accompanied by a rise in unemployment of more than 600,000 over the next three years, while interest rates will fall to as low as 2.4 per cent.

The CEBR has revised its forecasts following signs of weakening consumer confidence and figures showing that companies are sitting on an unexpectedly large amount of excess stock.

Companies will cut prices to sell off excess stock just as demand is weakening, while falling oil and commodity prices will add to the downward pressure on inflation, the CEBR says. That is likely to result in lower pay rises.

Douglas McWilliams, chief executive of the CEBR, said: "Inflation took off in the 1970s

BY ANDREW VERITY

on the back of inflationary wage increases and rising oil and commodity prices. Now all these factors are going into reverse, and as a result inflation is likely to disappear.

"This will be a new world for most people working today, who have spent their entire working lives in an inflationary environment. We will no longer be able to think in terms of annual rounds of wage and price increases."

The CEBR predicts a gradual fall in base rates from 7.2 per cent this year to 5.3 per cent next year, 4.2 per cent in 2000, 2.3 per cent in 2001 and 2.4 per cent in 2002. It warns that the economy is set to shrink slightly: real gross domestic product growth will fall from 2.4 per cent in 1998 to minus 0.1 per cent next year before returning to growth of 2.3 per cent by 2002.

Technically, the forecast of negative inflation applies only to 2002, but the CEBR predicts that the phenomenon of deflation may persist beyond then.

The fall in prices would be the first since the 1940s. The lowest rate of UK inflation in the past four decades was in 1969, when prices rose 0.6 per cent.

MEPC director left with payoff of £6m

MEPC, the property giant, is expected to come under intense scrutiny from its shareholders this week after revealing that a former director has received a payoff of almost £6m.

David Gruber, the former chief executive of MEPC's businesses in the United States, was paid £5.2m as a bonus for successfully negotiating the sale of the company's US property portfolio. In addition, he also received £769,000 in compensation for loss of office. Mr Gruber, who left the company at the end of September, was on a two-year rolling contract.

The payoff, revealed in MEPC's annual report which was posted on Friday evening, is likely to trigger some uncomfortable questions for Sir John Egan, the chairman, and chief executive James Tuckey, about the company's corporate governance procedures.

MEPC put its US portfolio up for sale in September 1997 after deciding to concentrate on its UK businesses in an attempt to reverse its flagging share price performance.

It put Mr Gruber in charge of the process and offered him a bonus linked to the amount he raised from the sale, with special rewards if he could extract

BY PETER THAL LARSEN



James Tuckey: Facing uncomfortable questions

a price above the book value of the properties.

The portfolio was eventually sold earlier this year for \$1.3bn (£774m), some £50m more than book value. As a result of his success, Mr Gruber's payoff rose sharply.

A spokesman for MEPC stressed that the payoff was a reward for success rather than failure. "This was a contractual arrangement at the time of the decision to sell and was related to the surplus above book value of £50m," he said.

Nevertheless, shareholders are likely to be surprised at the size of the incentive and the fact that it was not capped at a particular level.

MEPC is no stranger to shareholder unrest. Eighteen months ago, dismayed by the group's flagging share price performance, investors explored the possibility of encouraging one of its rivals to mount a bid.

Mr Tuckey survived by executing a sharp change in strategy, deciding to sell off the group's US and Australian portfolios. The bulk of the Australian properties have now also been sold, although they fetched less than book value.

Despite the change in tack, however, and the decision to return a large chunk of the proceeds of the sale to shareholders, MEPC's share price has continued to head south. It recently hit a 12-month low of 373p – almost 40 per cent below its peak.

However, MEPC's directors are understood to be relaxed about the latest revelation, believing that shareholders will accept the size of the payoff when the details of Mr Gruber's contract are explained to them.

Buyout market slumps as debt dries up

BY PETER THAL LARSEN

THE MARKET for management buyouts has collapsed in the final three months of the year as venture capitalists have struggled to raise debt to help fund their deals. The slump means large venture capital groups will have to downgrade the returns they have projected on their funds.

Figures published today by KPMG, the accountancy firm, show that 27 buyouts worth more than £10m have been completed since the end of September, with a combined value of £1.4bn.

This is half the value of the deals done in the final quarter of last year and 60 per cent less than in the third quarter, when buyouts worth £3.4bn were backed.

The slump reflects the upheaval in the financial markets, which has hit demand for the high-yield bonds used by venture capitalists to finance their larger deals. Fears of a recession in the UK have also prompted a more cautious approach.

According to KPMG, it could take until the middle of next year before confidence returns. Mike Stevens, the firm's head of management buyout services, said: "Larger, more heavily leveraged deals and those involving businesses in vulnerable sectors such as retailing or exporting have been particularly difficult to finance. It may be some time before the market starts accelerating again."

During the final quarter, the average size of buyouts has fallen to £25m from £38m in the previous three months. This reflects the lack of large buyouts which have dominated the venture capital industry in the past year.

Despite the downturn, 1998 has still been a record year. A total of £11.8bn has been spent on buyouts in the past 12 months, an increase of almost 45 per cent from the previous record of £8.2bn, set in 1997.

Nevertheless, the situation has put pressure on large venture capital groups, most of which have raised huge funds to pursue large deals.

"For the time being the money is stuck on deposit, earning ever-declining rates of interest," said Mr Stevens. "Either the big private equity houses must wait for the banks to re-enter the market or they must accept deals which involve a relatively high component of equity and less gearing. Either way, the returns they have projected over the next two or three years will have to be revisited."

In the past three months the largest deal was Charterhouse Development Capital's acquisition of Madame Tussaud's from Pearson, the media group, for £455m. The deal was unusual because Charterhouse used a large chunk of its own equity to fund. The venture capital group plans to refinance the business when the debt markets improve.

Policy and the smuggling bonanza

AS THERE are only three more (cross-border) shopping days to Christmas, it is a good moment to reflect on this great new British pastime. Ever since customs border controls were dismantled in January 1993, people have not been obliged to buy taxed cigarettes and alcohol, as the untaxed alternative has been available in large quantities across the Channel. This poses a long-term threat to the tax base and to the rule of law, and threatens to turn the conventional wisdom on tobacco taxation on its head. Let me explain.



**BILL
ROBINSON**
*The rewards of smuggling
are now well in excess of
the costs and the potential
penalty of being caught*

the consumption of alcohol and cigarettes in Britain was almost entirely from taxed goods bought on the high street. This gradually changed as duty-free consumption became an increasingly significant source of supply. But the abolition of border controls has added an entirely new source of tax-avoiding supply – smuggled goods.

Whenever two identical products are available in different jurisdictions at different prices, you must expect people to buy in the cheap country for resale or consumption in the expensive country.

Usually this is called trade, and the activity tends to equalise the prices in the two countries. But when the authorities outlaw trade, and/or impose a tax on it, it is driven underground and becomes smuggling.

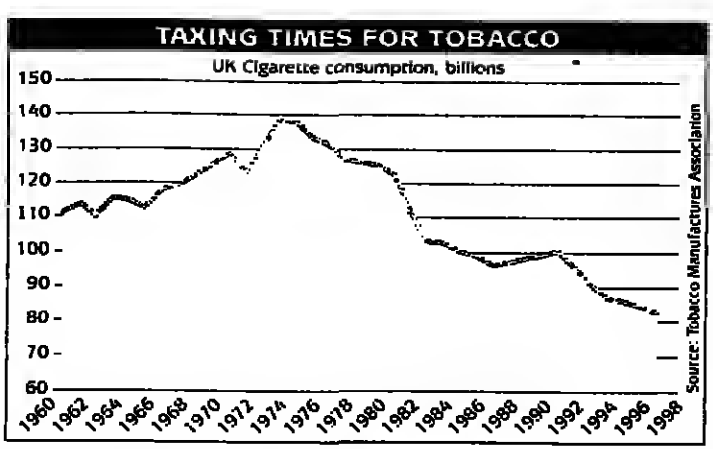
The economics of smuggling are just like the economics of trade. It is only worthwhile if the price difference more than covers the transport costs – plus, in the case of smuggling, a premium to induce the smuggler to run the risk of being caught. Tobacco is an attractive good from the smuggler's point of view because the price gap between the UK and Europe is large, and cigarettes are small and light. A van filled to the brim with cigarettes generates many thousands of pounds of revenue to the successful smuggler.

However, between the ports and airports were closely policed the

chances of getting caught were too great to make smuggling attractive. It is only since the border controls were abolished that smuggling has grown up on any scale. This reflects a sharp fall in the expected costs of smuggling—the penalty for being caught multiplied by the probability of apprehension. The rewards of smuggling are so well in excess of the costs.

Historically, most smuggling has been amateur—goods brought in for the smuggler's own use. There is a natural limit to the damage done by amateur smuggling, set by the number of journeys people make, their personal needs and the physical capacity of their means of transport. Professional smuggling, which is all about resale to third parties, has no such natural limits. If one van-load generates thousands of pounds of income, many vans will cross the Channel.

We can think of smugglers as entering a market where they have an identical product at a fraction of the existing market price. If they price at the existing level, they are hugely profitable. The profits enjoyed by the first entrants will attract others and competition for the contraband market will tend to drive down the price of contraband. As a result, contraband will tend to increase its share of the total market, and contraband suppliers will enjoy increasing economies of scale.



Thus professional smuggling, once established, tends to grow. It quickly dwarfs legitimate cross-border shopping. The UK authorities, who launched a pre-Christmas crackdown on smuggling last month, believe that contraband is costing the taxpayer £1bn of tobacco tax revenue out of a total of £10bn. This compares with only £50m of revenue lost to cross-border shopping. These figures show that smuggling is now a firmly established form of organised crime. It has become a business with a turnover measured in hundreds of millions and thousands of retail outlets.

Despite the crackdown, this business is bound to grow. For example, industry experts believe that one cigarette in three smoked in Canada during the high tax regime of the early 1990s was smuggled. Canada provides a fascinating case study because data is available by province, and the incidence of contraband across provinces varies with the distance from the border with the US – the source of cheaper cigarettes.

The UK is moving rapidly in this direction. The official estimates on smuggling suggest that it is doubling every three years. This has profound implications both for tax revenue and for health policy.

The usual assumption made by the authorities is that when they put up tax, the fall in sales is always much less than the rise in price. Smokers, for whom cigarettes are

a necessity, are simply not very price-sensitive. They pay the extra tax and go on puffing.

However, if the hardened smoker has the option of buying cheaper duty-free or contraband cigarettes, the effect of a tax hike is to make him switch. The more widely available are cigarettes that avoid duty, the greater the chances that a tax hike will simply cause the smoker to switch to them when the duty goes up.

The implications for tax policy, if you think about it for a minute, are pretty drastic. Every increase in cigarette duty will drive more smokers into the arms of the smugglers. This is bad for the rule of law and it is obviously bad for revenue. A less obvious implication, but a very disturbing one, is that it is also bad for the health of the nation.

One oft-proclaimed purpose of having high tobacco taxation is the paternalist one of discouraging people, for their own good, from smoking. When the only available cigarettes were taxed cigarettes this policy worked - although it always conflicted with the government's real objective in taxing smoking, which was to raise money. However, now that smokers have access to cheaper smuggled cigarettes, the effect of each duty increase is to make more of them switch to contraband.

Smoking is an activity which has become increasingly concen-

trated among the poor – the middle classes have all but given it up. And it is the poor who are targeted by the purveyors of contraband, who “push” smuggled cigarettes in many of the same outlets as illegal drugs. Raising duty rates does not affect the smoking behaviour of those who already depend on contraband. But it does make contraband more profitable for the seller and more attractive for the buyer. It thus increases the supply-push of illegal cigarettes to new users.

Two conclusions follow. First, the Government is entirely right to crack down on smuggling. It is good for public health and good for tax revenue. No other policy meets both objectives, which usually conflict.

Second, the time is fast approaching when it will be necessary to attack the smugglers by destroying the source of their profits. That means cutting duty, as the Canadians did in 1994. It is politically unthinkable at present but, as the Canadians found, the logic is irresistible. A tax cut brings so many smokers back into the legitimate market that it boosts revenue. And because these smokers are paying the full price, not the contraband price, they smoke less. Good for health, good for revenue.

Bill Robinson is director of the Strategy and Policy practice at London Economics.



British Steel is one of the most efficient producers in the world, but this means little when demand disappears MSI

No Christmas cheer for British industry

BY FRANCESCO GUERRERA

News Analysis: A bleak new year of shut-downs, layoffs and reduced hours looms. Can more flexible working practices ease the pain?

BRITISH STEEL, Port Talbot - shut. British Steel, Port Llan-wern - shut. Royal Doulton, Stoke-on-Trent - shut. Rover, Longbridge - reduced hours. Ford, Dagenham - reduced hours. As the country's manu-facturers sink even deeper into recession, the message from the country's industrial heart-land is: Britain is not working this Christmas.

The numbers give a graphic account of the plight of UK manufacturing. Overall, more than 11,000 workers will be forced to go home for the Christmas period because their factories had to shut early to cut costs. A further 19,000 will work a shorter week, as com-panies reduce shifts to meet the slump in demand for their products.

The problem is not new

flood of cheaper alternatives coming from the crisis-ridden Asia have destroyed the competitiveness of British exports. At home, the slowdown in the economy and fading consumer confidence are making life difficult for UK-made goods. But if the problem is well known, solutions are not easy to find.

As the example of British Steel has shown, there is very little an export-led company can do when the markets and the exchange rates are going against it. The company is one of the most efficient producers in the world and has worked

al secretary of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation, believes that the layoffs—to be achieved through voluntary redundancies wherever possible—were the best possible outcome in the dire circumstances.

He argues that without the unions, the cull would have been even more severe. "It is a cultural change. We have argued that this change in culture can develop but we aren't prepared to accept hard redundancies. This is a softly softly approach."

However, Lord Brookman admits that he failed to breach the company's resistance to

chief negotiator in the talks with Rover, says that the arrangement is a radical departure from "the hoorn-and-hust strategy of many British firms. However, he maintains that such deals are still too rare in British industry.

"The legal framework in this country is inadequate compared with other European countries. We are Europe's soft touches, the easiest and the speediest to sack," he says.

But despite Mr Woodley's scepticism, the need to move towards more flexible working practices is being increasingly recognised by unions and employers alike.

One trade union official summed up the stark choices faced by workers' representatives in the current economic gloom. "It's very simple. There are two choices. To resist change and find out that the

Official figures show that manufacturing output has been contracting for some time and some 60,000 jobs have already been lost in British industry since the start of the year. But recent weeks have witnessed a pick-up in the flow of bad news coming from the country's producers.

In the last month or so, British Steel has announced massive job cuts, widely expected to total 12,000, the permanent closure of two rolling mills and sharp production cuts in other plants. Royal Doulton, one of the country's leading pottery makers, has announced that it would scrap one of its main factories and make 1,000 people redundant - a sixth of its work force. Rover and Ford, the two car makers, have fared slightly better. But even their announcement of new flexible working arrangements to avoid redundancies is a symptom that Britain's industrial heartbeat has slowed down to a faint pulse.

The reasons for the manufacturers' malaise have been around for some time. The strength of the pound and the



hard to improve its performance in the past few years. But productivity is of little help when demand is not there.

As one British Steel official put it: "The situation has got progressively worse during the first half of the year as the effects of the Asian crisis have resulted in oversupply and price falls." Hence the job cuts and the restructuring programme, which have received the blessing of the unions.

Lord Brookman, the gener-

agree flexible working patterns in exchange for no redundancies along the line of the Rover and Ford deals.

Those agreements, widely seen as a landmark in the history of British industrial relations, were a direct result of the tough export markets faced by the car makers.

As the Asian demand for Rover Fiestas and Rover 200s slumped, the companies and the unions had to find a way to cushion the blow. In the words of one Rover official: "In the car industry, it is very difficult to balance supply and demand. We need the flexibility to be able to ebb and flow as the market does".

The Rover deal, which will ensure that Longbridge plant stays open to produce the new Mini, can be described as "workers on tap".

The company has the flexibility to ask the staff to work shorter hours during lean periods and longer days in booming times without having to pay overtime. As a trade-off, the Rover's German parent, BMW, undertook not to lay off staff.

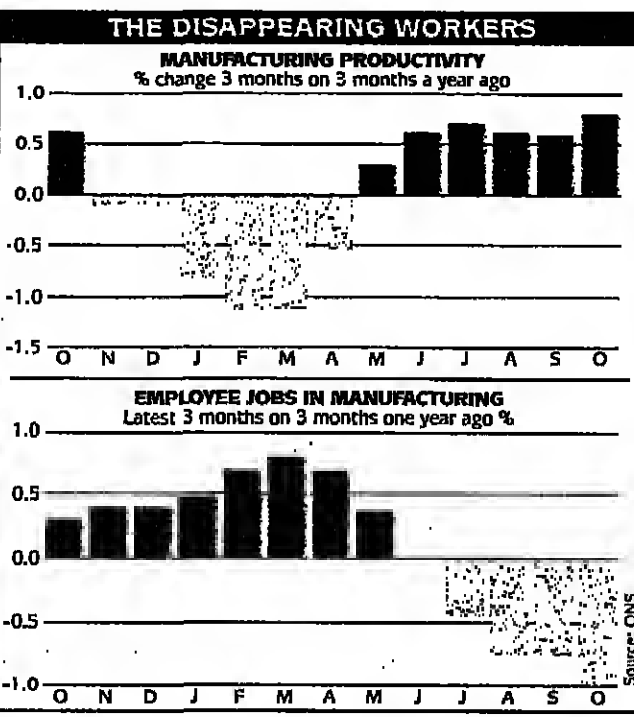
Tony Woodley, the unions'

factory will close anyway or to tell the company. We think that in a year's time you will be facing problems so let's sit down and discuss how we can solve them."

Ken Jackson, the general secretary of the Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union, believes that the first choice is not an option. "Trade unions can't stand still. Our members don't work for unsuccessful companies for very long, so it's in our interest to help our industry to change even if that means difficult choices for us."

Employers agree and point to the advantages of having the workers on side when dealing with change.

Neutral observers say that this spirit of co-operation is set to be put to the test by troubles to come. Both the Confederation of British Industry and the Engineering Employers Federation predict more manufacturing gloom in the first half of 1999. According to some forecasters, UK manufacturers will have to shed a further 125,000 jobs before hitting the bottom of this recession.



BAA's Alconbury plan is grounded

BAA, the airports operator, has suffered a blow to its plans to develop a former military air base into a road and rail distribution centre, writes Philip Thornton.

A plan by ADL, a joint venture of BAA and Kingspark Developments, to convert the airfield at Alconbury in Cambridgeshire was rejected last week by the planning committee of Huntingdonshire District Council. Councillors voted not to accept the plan and meet again today to formulate their grounds.

A spokesman for ADL said it was disappointed at the decision, which was contrary to officers' recommendation. He

said the centre would have created 7,000 new jobs over the 7 million square foot site, although he did not specify the value of the project.

The spokesman said: "We are waiting to see the reason for the decision and depending on that we may or may not appeal."

The setback is the latest for BAA over Alconbury. ADL was forced to withdraw plans for an air freight terminal there in the face of strong public opposition.

Its current plan involves taking lorries off the road and putting freight on to trains. The site is near the A1 and A14 roads and could be linked to the East Coast main rail line,

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The 20-year bull run is not over yet

IT'S BEEN a splendid year for blue chips, despite the autumn collapse of confidence, which prompted agonised squeals of despair and the usual array of declarations that the bull run was over and the bears would be left to feast on the bones of the stock market.

Last week Footsie closed at 5,741.9 points, representing a net inconsiderable 600 gain so far this year and thereby preserving the 20-year bull run.

Mind you, the index has not, as yet, lived up to the heady hopes expressed at the start of the year. But a merry festive run - the signs last week were encouraging - could push Footsie to a level which justifies the predictions circulating as 1998 got under way.

Many City experts were convinced Footsie would end the year comfortably above 6,000. They can, even if the seasonal run fails to continue, say with justification they were on the right path. Unfortunately, they could be accused of getting one essential element of investment strategy hopelessly wrong - their timing.

The index crossed 6,000 in April and went on to peak at 6,179 in July. Then it was downhill with a year's low of 4,599.2 hit in October before a recovery and a revival got under way.

The slump, with the benefit of hindsight, had been waiting to happen. The simmering Russian economic crisis suddenly exploded, prompting Asia's already appreciable problems to be regurgitated with increased force.

British businessmen became more vocal about the strong pound and its impact on company earnings, and profit warnings almost acquired a nuisance value.

The misdemeanours of President Clinton started to rattle New York and then the Long-Term Capital Management hedge fund disaster hit a startled market, provoking wild stories of a deluge of financial disasters and confidence.

STOCK MARKET WEEK



DEREK PAIN

dent predictions that the world's banking system was on the brink of collapse.

As Footsie plunged, those earlier, so confident forecasts were pulled back. Bob Semple and David McBain at BT Alex Brown, for example, revised their year-end estimate to 5,500.

The worries which created the autumn retreat have now

much of its equilibrium and forecasts for next year are starting to look increasingly chirpy, the rest of the stock market remains a deeply depressed area.

Second- and third-line shares fumbled in the first half of the year, even hitting new highs, but their under-performance has been frightening, and the mid cap, small cap and fledgling constituents link bombed-out.

As Richard Jeffrey at Charterhouse Tilney pointed out recently, the small cap index has underperformed the All-Share Index a staggering 40 per cent in the last two years. The stock market in recent times has become very much a market of two halves - Footsie constituents enjoying all the fun and most of the rest limping along, looking decidedly distressed.

The reasons for the contrasting fortunes have been well documented. The lack of liquidity which hampers dealing in smaller company shares is increased by the reluctance of many institutional investors to venture outside the confines of Footsie. They want to buy and sell shares smoothly and easily and that is not possible with many on the under-card.

It is a chicken and egg situation: until big investors are prepared to take a more active interest in small company shares and liquidity in them consequently improves, they will remain neglected.

There is, of course, plenty of hidden value at today's share valuations. The continuing flow of cash takeover bids, often from overseas, is an indication of the merits lurking on the under-card.

And the growing and rather worrying growth in management buy-outs is another example. It is understandable that managers become irritated by the low - and they believe inappropriate - value placed on the their company and their labours by the stock market. So they unlock value by mounting a cash bid,

usually hacked by venture capitalists.

Independent directors and outside advisers are consulted but the managers are in a better position than anyone else to appreciate the true value of their company and it would be surprising if they do not make sure they get a bargain. Certainly they would be foolish to pay even a penny over the top.

So at the end of the day it is the shareholder who is in danger of getting ripped off and as smaller companies are largely the preserve of small, private shareholders it is, as is so often the case in the stock market, the little guy who suffers.

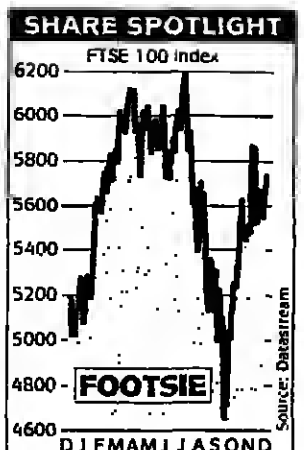
Will the situation improve for the small company next year? Hope springs eternal. Mr Jeffrey says there is "exceptional value embedded in small company ratings" and believes a rally could occur in the middle of next year.

Still, the long-running under-performance by the little 'uns provides fuel for the argument that the fact there are, in effect, two stock markets should be recognised by a two-way split - an international market for, say, the 100 shares in Footsie and the 250 in the mid cap index, and a domestic one for the rest.

Indeed it could be argued that the computerised under book, currently embracing 125 shares and intended eventually to take in the top 350, is laying the foundation for an eventual division.

Clearly the demands of the likes of Glaxo Wellcome, capitalised at £71bn, are far removed from those of the little cinder group Merrydown, with an £8.2m valuation.

The requirements of institutional investors and private shareholders are also vastly different. Although there would obviously have to be cross-fertilisation, with big and small investors able to deal in both markets, a dual operation would have much to commend it.



FOOTIE

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR DIARY

TODAY - Interims: Peel Holdings, AGMs: Govett Strategic, Jupiter Extra Income, Newcastle United, Reflex, Silver Shield, EGMS: Enstone, Fleming Mercantile Investment Trust, McCarthy & Stone, Medisys, Natural Building, Property Partnership, EGMS: UK final GDP (Q3), UK balance of payments (Q3).

TUESDAY - Finals: Kelsey Industries, AGMs: Babcock International, CH Bailey, Economies: US Federal Open Market Committee meeting, WEDNESDAY - Tokyo markets closed, Interims: Stewart & Wright, AGMs: Enterprise Capital, EGMS: Hillsdown Holdings, Jupiter Geared Capital, Yeoman Investment Trust.

Economies: UK global trade (Oct), UK non-EU trade (Nov), MPC meeting minutes (Dec), US final GDP (Q3), US corporate profits (Q3), THURSDAY (Christmas Eve) - London Stock Exchange closes at 12:30, FRIDAY - Christmas Day, MONDAY 28 December - Bank holiday.

TUESDAY - Nothing scheduled, WEDNESDAY - London Stock Exchange closes at 12:30, AGMs: Galaxy Media, EGMS: Fife Indmar, Plasman, Economies: Nationwide house price survey (Dec), BBA mortgage lending (Nov), NEW YEAR'S EVE - London Stock Exchange closed all day, NEW YEAR'S DAY - Bank holiday.

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Music sample strikes a note of contention

WHO'S SUING WHOM

JOHN WILLCOCK



Massive Attack: their song 'Black Milk' is the subject of plagiarism allegations

MANFRED MANN (real name Manfred Lubowitz), the popular musician and songwriter who found fame and fortune with his eponymous band in the 1960s, is suing the extremely trendy group Massive Attack for alleged plagiarism.

Mr Mann says that in 1971 he composed a song called "Tribute", which he then recorded with Manfred Mann's Earth Band.

Then in May this year Virgin issued an album by Massive Attack, *Mezzanine*, which carried a track entitled "Black Milk".

Mr Mann says this track is about 128 bars long. His writ claims: "In 100 out of these approximately 128 bars there was incorporated by the Group (Massive Attack), in an identical or in a substantially identical form, a repeated two-bar extract taken from the recording by a process known as digital sampling."

Mr Mann is seeking an injunction to stop further sales of the album, plus damages and costs.

GRANADA and London Weekend Television (LWT) have fallen out with WEA International and Warner Music International Services over two recent films, *Coronation Street: Viva Las Vegas* and a compila-

tion, *Blind Date: Greatest Hits and Unseen Bits*.

The two British TV companies made a deal to allow WEA and Warner to distribute videos of the films. Granada and LWT now claim they have received only £800,000 in advances from the US companies, several hundred thousand pounds less than they are due under the deal. They now want an injunction to stop WEA and Warner from copying and distributing the films.

COCA-COLA and Schweppes went to court last week to force British Telecommunications (BT) to divulge the name and address of a person subscribing to a BT mobile telephone number, a person they suspect of infringing their trademarks.

Under the Data Protection Act, in certain circumstances a service provider, such as BT, can be forced by the courts to divulge the identity of a subscriber to a third party, overriding their

rights to client confidentiality.

Last Tuesday the court supported the application, and BT handed over the name and address to the drinks companies, which is continuing its investigations. The name of the person concerned remains confidential.

THE USE of "Chinese walls" by accountants, lawyers, investment banks and other professional firms will have to be re-examined following a landmark ruling in favour of Prince Jefri of Brunei in his case against KPMG.

Prince Jefri, younger brother of the Sultan of Brunei, hired KPMG in 1997 to review his own finances. This year the Brunei Investment Authority (BIA) launched an investigation into the Sultanate's finances, and especially Prince Jefri's affairs.

When the BIA hired KPMG to carry out the review, Prince Jefri applied in the UK courts to stop them, saying their Chi-

nese walls would fail to stop confidential information about him leaking to the BIA.

The law lords found in favour of Prince Jefri, and on Friday published the reasons for their ruling. They criticised KPMG's "ad hoc" construction of a Chinese wall, and laid down ground rules for professional firms to follow in future.

The law lords were particularly worried that the KPMG people working for the Prince who then worked for the BIA came from within the same department. In future, Chinese walls should be used to separate different departments, and these departments should, where possible, be housed in different locations. This should extend to different dining arrangements, according to Lord Millett, who wrote the judgment.

According to one of Prince Jefri's solicitors, Jeremy Cole, a partner with Lovell White Durrant, the judgment will affect "everyone working in the City".

HSBC Midland Bank Interest Rates

Advice of interest rate changes for personal customers from 22 December 1998

Rates for Savers

High Interest Savings Account 60 days notice (Annual interest option)	Old Rate			New Rate from 22 Dec 98		
	Gross	Gross	AER	Gross	Gross	AER
£100,000 +	6.35%	5.89%	5.85%	6.18%	5.70%	5.85%
£50,000 +	6.05%	5.55%	5.55%	5.89%	5.42%	5.55%
£10,000 +	5.95%	5.45%	5.45%	5.80%	5.32%	5.45%
Up to £10,000	5.75%	5.25%	5.25%	5.61%	5.13%	5.25%

Midland Instant Access Savings (Monthly interest option)	Old Rate			New Rate from 22 Dec 98		
	Gross	Gross	AER	Gross	Gross	AER
£50,000 +	5.50%	5.00%	5.00%	5.37%	4.89%	5.00%
£25,000 +	4.65%	4.15%	4.15%	4.56%	4.08%	4.15%
£10,000 +	4.20%	3.70%	3.70%	4.13%	3.64%	3.70%
Up to £10,000	4.00%	3.50%	3.50%	3.93%	3.45%	3.50%

Deposit Account 7 days notice (No longer sold)	Old Rate			New Rate from 22 Dec 98		
	Gross	Gross	AER	Gross	Gross	AER
£50,000 +	5.44%	4.95%	5.00%	5.44%	4.95%	5.00%
£25,000 +	4.61%	4.12%	4.15%	4.61%	4.12%	4.15%
£10,000 +	4.16%	3.67%	3.70%	4.16%	3.67%	3.70%
Up to £10,000	3.97%	3.48%	3.50%	3.97%	3.48%	3.50%

Tessa and follow-up Tessa (Annual Tax Free interest)	Old Rate			New Rate from 22 Dec 98		
	Gross	Gross	AER	Gross	Gross	AER
Tax free	6.80%	6.80%	6.80%	Tax free	Tax free	6.80%

Bank Accounts

Student Bank Account	Old Rate			New Rate from 22 Dec 98		
	Gross	Gross	AER	Gross	Gross	AER
1.49%	1.49%	1.00%	1.00%	0.40%	0.25%	0.25%

16 - 19 Year Old Account	Old Rate			New Rate from 22 Dec 98		
	Gross	Gross	AER	Gross	Gross	AER
1.74%	1.74%	1.25%	1.25%	3.45%	3.21%	3.25%

Livecash	Old Rate			New Rate from 22 Dec 98		
	Gross	Gross	AER	Gross	Gross	AER
3.93%	3.93%	3.45%	3.50%	2.96%	2.48%	2.50%

Meridian Bank Account	Old Rate			New Rate from 22 Dec 98		
	Gross	Gross	AER	Gross	Gross	AER
£50,000 +	3.45%	3.21%	3.25%	1.49%	1.00%	1.00%

Up to £2,000	Old Rate			New Rate from 22 Dec 98		
	Gross	Gross	AER	Gross	Gross	AER
0.50%	0.50%	0.50%	0.50%	0.50%	0.50%	0.50%

Secured Borrowing

HomeOwner Reserve	Old Rate			New Rate from 22 Dec 98		
	APR	APR	Annual Rate	APR	APR	Annual Rate
11.80%	11.80%	11.30%	10.90%	11.80%	11.30%	10.90%

Base Rate 6.25% effective from 10 December 1998

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Gross: The rate before the deduction of tax, applicable to savings.
AER (Annual Equivalent Rate): A notional rate which illustrates what the gross rate would be if interest was paid and compounded each year.
Tax Free: Tax Free means that interest is not subject to income tax.
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SPORT

Return to France '98: Of the 32 teams that entered last summer's finals only 10 still have the same man in charge.



Faces of the departed: (left to right) Carlos Alberto Parreira, sacked by Saudi Arabia; Cesare Maldini, resigned as Italy coach; Mario Zagallo, sacked by Brazil; and Aimé Jacquet, who has finished his France contract. *Empics/Allsport*

No fun on World Cup merry-go-round

THEY ARRIVE needing one thing above all — time. In a few weeks they discover that this is the one element in short supply and are shown the door. Most have their contracts paid in full but have lost their pride, a commodity more precious than any amount of cash.

Christmas is a traditional time for the sack — but not the one that Santa carries. Six months after the World Cup finals, only 10 — soon to become nine — national coaches of the 32 teams that entered last summer's finals are still in their jobs, a poignant reminder of the fragility of a profession that pays handsome rewards but scant regard for reputations.

While no one was the least surprised when, say, Bulgaria's Hristo Bonev resigned after a woefully poor World Cup campaign, considerable sympathy has to be extended to the coaches of nations such as Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Tunisia and South Korea, all of whom were out of office even before the final game on July 12.

Every finalist's ambition was, of course, to reach round two but 16 had to go. To summarily dismiss the coaches of those countries who had always seemed likely to fall at the first hurdle

BY ANDREW WARSHAW

was little short of scandalous. Getting to the finals was in itself an achievement for such nations and should have been recognised as such by over-demanding national federations.

Former England manager Bobby Robson, himself a victim of football politics at Barcelona, but with a passion for the game that remains undimmed, remembers watching as coach after coach failed to finish the job he had started at France '98.

"It's a fact: your reward for getting to the World Cup finals was to get the sack," Robson said. "The name of the game is to win but my word, it's a thin line. Look at Carlos Alberto Parreira. Four years ago, he was the most important man in world football having won the trophy with Brazil. Two World Cup final matches later, this time in charge of Saudi Arabia, he loses his job after a game in which he has a player sent off against the host nation in front of 80,000 fans."

Parreira's sacking, said Robson, was particularly unfair. "The fact is that Saudi Arabia had done quite well for 70 minutes against France until the dismissal. Then they huddled

and Carlos Alberto is the fall guy. That's unrealistic."

Parreira, who was linked with the vacant South Africa job before it went to a local, Trott Moloto, was not the only fall guy. By the end of France '98, Henryk Kasperczak of Tunisia had gone, along with Cha Bum-kun of South Korea, Bora Milutinovic of Nigeria and Philippe Troussier, who has transferred his allegiance from South Africa to Japan. Later, and more fa-

mously, others were forced out, including Mario Zagallo of Brazil and Bert Vogts of Germany.

Parreira, unlike some of his colleagues, took it all in his stride. He knew from his time with Brazil the unpredictable nature of being a football manager. He also knew how relentless the pressure could be.

When in the hot seat of one of the most high-profile football jobs in the world, Parreira had to endure a terrible pasting

from the Brazilian press when things went wrong. Going to Saudi Arabia had its own pressures but it was light years away from what he endured in Rio.

"I remember how Graham Taylor was vilified in the English tabloids after England failed to qualify for the 1994 World Cup finals," said Parreira. "That was nothing compared to what can happen in Brazil. They expect all the

country's political ills to be solved through football."

Parreira, like Robson, is now biding his time, as is Vogts, whose miserable reign as national coach of Germany came to a sad and abrupt end in early September.

German managers rarely, if ever, quit. Indeed, there have only ever been six in the last 72 years. So when Vogts announced that he wanted to call it a day to preserve some "human dignity"

and spare his family the kind of intolerable pressure that was being heaped upon him, you knew he meant it.

With several of his senior players privately rebelling against him and headlines such as "Berti, how much longer?" appearing in the national press, Vogts cut his losses and called it quits, the first time any German manager had done so in mid-season.

And yet, he had only lost 12 games as national team coach out of 102. "The way everyone complained, you'd have thought it was only 12 that I had won," said the embittered Vogts, who has been replaced by the experienced and far from convincing pairing of Erich Ribbeck and Uli Stielike.

Other high-profile coaches to pay the price of so-called World Cup failure include Argentina's Daniel Passarella, Sampdoria's first choice before they went for David Platt; Italy's Cesare Maldini, replaced by Dino Zoff; Zagallo, who has given way to the delightfully named Vanderlei Luxemburgo; and, most recently, Spain's pragmatic Javier Clemente, who has gone to Real Betis.

Some, it has to be said, stepped down by choice, com-

forted by the knowledge that they performed better than their predecessors: France's Aimé Jacquet, now back in the bosom of the French federation; Norway's Egil Olsen, who has just come out of retirement for the challenge of coaching Valerenga, Chelsea's next Cup-Winners' Cup opponents; and Gus Hiddink, who left the Netherlands semi-finals to take over at Real Madrid and has been replaced by Frank Rijkaard.

Whether by good fortune or good judgement, Glenn Hoddle, so far at least, is one of the 10 who have survived. So is Craig Brown and, somewhat surprisingly, Georges Leekens of Belgium.

Any day now, Chile's Nelson Acosta looks likely to be discarded and become number 23 on the World Cup discard list. Hold on, wasn't it Chile who performed so sublimely against the Italians at France '98 and made more friends than arguably any other team?

Christmas cheer? Don't you believe it.

TOMORROW

Glenn Hoddle looks back at England's World Cup

THE PRECARIOUS CAREER OF THE INTERNATIONAL COACH

Of the 32 coaches at the World Cup in France last summer, 22 have now left their posts.

The following is a list of the departures since the start of the World Cup, which ran from 10 June 10 to 12 July.

Argentina Daniel Passarella, resigned and replaced by Marcelo Bleisa.

Brazil Mario Zagallo, sacked and replaced by Vanderlei Luxemburgo.

Bulgaria Hristo Bonev, resigned and replaced by Dimitar Dimitrov.

Cameroon Claude Le Roy, end of contract, replaced by Jean Mangan Onguéné.

Colombia Hernan Dario Gomez, end of contract, replaced by Javier Alvarez.

Germany Bert Vogts, resigned and replaced by Erich Ribbeck.

France Aimé Jacquet, end of contract, replaced by Roger Lemerre.

Iran Jalal Talebi, resigned and replaced by Mansour Pourheidari.

Italy Cesare Maldini, resigned and replaced by Dino Zoff.

Japan Takeshi Okada, resigned and replaced by Philippe Troussier.

Netherlands Gus Hiddink, end of contract replaced by Frank Rijkaard.

Nigeria Bora Milutinovic, end of contract, replaced by Thijs Libregts.

Norway Egil Olsen, resigned and replaced by Nils Johan Semb.

Paraguay Paulo Cesar Carpeggiani, end of contract. Not yet replaced.

Romania Anghel Iordanescu, end of contract, replaced by Victor Piturca.

Saudi Arabia Carlos Alberto Parreira, sacked and replaced by Otto Pfister.

South Africa Philippe Troussier, end of contract, replaced by Trott Moloto.

South Korea Cha Bum-kun, sacked and replaced by Kim Mung-seok.

Spain Javier Clemente sacked and replaced by Jorge Camacho.

Tunisia Henryk Kasperczak, sacked and replaced by Francesco Scoglio.

United States Steve Sampson, resigned and replaced by Bruce Arena.

Yugoslavia Slobodan Santrac, retired and replaced by Milan Zivadinovic.

The 10 coaches remaining in their posts are: Glenn Hoddle (England), Rene Simoes (Jamaica), Manuel Lapuente (Mexico), Henri Michel (Morocco), Craig Brown (Scotland), Georges Leekens (Belgium), Herbert Prohaska (Austria), Bo Johansson (Denmark), Miroslav Blazevic (Croatia) and Nelson Acosta (Chile).

Curley's gamble with his life

Barney Curley
Giving a Little Back
By Nick Townsend
Collins Willow £15.99

BOOK OF THE WEEK

IF A SINGLE word could be found to unravel the enigma that is Barney Curley, it would be faith. In equal measure, his religion (Roman Catholic) and self-belief are the secrets of his success and notoriety and, his family apart, the most important things in a life that has, in its time, turned the traditionally conservative world of horse racing on its head.

Curley born in County Fermanagh, Northern Ireland, in 1939 into a non-racing family, has become one of the most ferocious gamblers of recent times. But there is much more to him than that. His father was ruined by gambling (greyhounds, rather than horses) and young Barney, though interested in betting, was studying to become a Jesuit when he contracted TB and, for a time,

was close to death. When he finally recovered, more than a year later, he decided that the priesthood was not for him and determined to try and make a living by betting, while attempting to avoid his father's fate. Along the way he became manager of three successful showbands, without having any knowledge of showbusiness or pop music.

His early gambling lessons were painful ones, but he learned to watch and read horses and races as well as any trainer, a profession whose ranks he would eventually join. His first coup, which has become part of Irish racing folklore, was landed in 1975 when, without breaking a single rule, he relieved the bookmakers of £200,000 with a hurdler called Yellow Sam. It was a brilliant-

ly executed sortie, involving a trusted group of friends and the monopolisation of the only public telephone at Bellestown racecourse (in the days before mobile phones).

Curley first came to prominence outside his native Ireland in 1984, when he successfully raffied his IR£12m home, Middleton House in County Westmeath, and trousered a tidy profit by selling 9,000 tickets at IR£200 each (£175). The event, described by *The Irish Independent* as "The second great mystery of Irish racing after Shergar's disappearance" made news around the world.

Armed with his profit, and after overcoming the minor problem of whether or not the lottery was legal, Bernard Joseph Curley, horse owner/trainer, gambler and estate agent extraordinaire, decided the time was right to try his luck in England.

Success over the water fol-

lowed swiftly, as did controversy, and author Nick Townsend chronicles several other huge gambles (mostly successful) as well as "The Graham Bradley Affair" and Curley's doomed attempt to be the punters' saviour with The Independent Racing Organisation, which attracted just 290 members.

Curley rarely speaks to the media. He has a deserved reputation for being difficult. But Townsend, over many strength-sapping months, has obviously gained his trust and provides us with an illuminating insight of a very private man and his secrets. One celebrated chain of stores originally decided not to carry the book, on the basis that not enough people had heard of Curley. When it appeared in the Irish best-sellers list shortly after publication, a quick change of mind followed.

Good decision.

Len Gould

THIS WEEK'S TOP TEN SPORTS BOOKS

- 1 **European Football Yearbook 1998-99**, edited by Mike Hammond (Sports Projects, paperback, £23.95)
- 2 **Bleak and Blue - 22 Years at the Manchester Academy of Football** Farce, Craig Winstanley (Sigma, paperback, £8.95)
- 3 **Addicted**, Tony Adams with Ian Ridley (Collins Willow, hardback, £16.99)
- 4 **Jenny Pitman - The Autobiography** (Partridge, hardback, £16.99)
- 5 **Turning Point**, Sean Fitzpatrick and Duncan Johnstone (Penguin, hardback, £16.99)
- 6 **Elliott's Golf Form 1998**, Keith Elliott (Portway Press, paperback, £20.00)
- 7 **Annuario del Calcio Mondiale 98-99**, Salvatore Lo Presti (SET, hardback, £19.95)
- 8 **Playing at Home**, John Aizlewood (Orion, hardback, £16.95)
- 9 **Blade Runners - Lives in Football**, Gary Armstrong (Halsbury Press, hardback, £16.95)
- 10 **Pace-maker**, Glenn McGrath with Daniel Lane (Ironbark, paperback, £14.95)

List compiled by Sportspages, 94-96 Charing Cross Road, London (0171 240 9604) and St Ann's Square, Manchester (0161 832 8530), and www.sportspages.co.uk

United can supplant Juve as favourites

SPORTS BETTING

BY IAN DAVIES

UNITED v Internazionale tie which, worryingly for Red Devils fans, may pitch Ronaldo against Jasp Stam.

Bayern Munich will be fancied to beat Kaiserslautern, their Bundesliga compatriots, but Real Madrid, the holders, are no certainties to overcome Dynamo Kiev, although the Ukrainian outfit may be handicapped by playing the tie during their close season.

With a training regime designed to bring their squad to peak fitness only in the new year and, free to dip into the transfer market at that point, the side that won the 1996 European Cup and should have accounted for the inferior Borussia Dortmund and Real Madrid in 1997 and this year, should make the semi-finals.

However, unless Juventus have found their stride both domestically and in Europe by that point, the favourites by the semi-final stage will be the winners of the Manchester

EUROPEAN CUP				
	C	H	L	S
Juventus	10-2	5-2	7-2	10-1
Internazionale	4-1	5-1	5-2	5-1
Real Madrid	9-2	4-1	5-1	4-1
Bayern Munich	5-1	4-1	4-1	5-2
Real Madrid	4-1	6-1	4-1	5-1
Dynamo Kiev	5-1	5-1	5-1	5-1
Kaiserslautern	12-1	28-1	12-1	16-1
Olympique	28-1	46-1	25-1	28-1

سكرا من الامم

Cherry-picking Tigers eat their fill

IT IS ONLY a weak ligament we are talking about here; not a snapped Achilles, or a broken back, or an all-over stress fracture of the body, but a measly centimetre of fibrous connective tissue supporting the muscle structure of Phil Vickery's hunk neck. Sadly, for the Kingsholm faithful, this apparently modest orthopaedic complication has left a once virile Gloucester pack in a state of collective emasculation. From unique to emaciated in a matter of weeks.

Vickery's condition, not yet career-threatening but of profound concern to both player and club, goes to the heart – or rather, the balls – of Gloucester's predicament. Shorn of the raw strength their 23-year-old Cornishman brings to their front row, Gloucester have no set-piece platform worthy of the name. And that means trouble



CHRIS HEWETT

Gloucester 18
Leicester 23

with knobs on. It does not take a scientific mind of Newtonian stature to arrive at the most basic law of rugby physics: namely, that what goes back in the scrum goes out with a whimper.

Bristling with a nap hand of international tight forwards

and a titan of a No 8 in Martin Corry, Leicester inflicted upon the Cherry and Whites a roasting of such hellish proportions that the visiting backs could afford an afternoon off and still pocket the spoils of victory. Three of Tim Stimpson's six penalties came as a direct result of the Tigers' scrummaging superiority. And, while it was possible to listen to a Wagner opera in the time it took England's former full-back to complete his kicking routine, he at least gave the Gloucester heavy brigade ample opportunity to reflect on their inadequacy.

Disturbingly for the Kingsholm infantry, the Vickery-shaped cavalry is not expected to arrive for another five weeks at least. "I can't see Phil playing before February," said Richard Hill, the Gloucester coach. "We need to get him ab-

solutely right before we pick him again, because no one in their right mind takes chances with a neck injury. He's had CT scans, MRI scans, brain scans, you name it, and none of them have revealed any structural damage. But he does have a ligament weakness, and it's a serious problem, especially for a prop. If you have a dodgy ankle ligament, you can strap the ankle. What you can't do is strap a neck.

"Phil is worried about the long-term implications for his career and I don't blame him. He must be thinking: 'Hey, I'm 22 and if I'm not very careful, I could find myself back on the family farm shovelling pig manure.' It's a desperate shame, not least because he has such a big future internationally. He can't even run at the moment because it would jar his neck."

By sharp contrast, Leicester

are far too well endowed to regard any one player as indispensable; having arrived in the Cotswolds without Joel Stransky, Will Greenwood and Nnamdi Ezulike, they simply shrugged their shoulders and played to the strengths that remained. They even managed to make light of the temporary absence of their outstanding captain, Martin Johnson, who was sin-binned at the end of the first quarter for his frank and forthright contribution to a nasty little flare-up at the coalface.

Gloucester attempted to capitalise, but failed so miserably that Johnson returned from his lonely dressing-room vigil to find his own side three points to the good.

Indeed, there was an air of inevitability about the proceedings, despite Gloucester's second try three minutes into the second half – a carefully

planned strike created by Steve Ojomoh's inspired blind-side feed from the base of an unstable scrum and completed by Mark Mapletto in the right corner. Although Mapletto's handsome conversion left Leicester 11-15 down, there was something distinctly false about the deficit: sure enough, Corry and company changed up a gear, pitched camp in the Gloucester half and earned Stimpson enough shots at goal to wrap up the result.

"They're title material," acknowledged Hill, bluntly adding that his own side were quite the opposite. "The Leicester pack is the best in the business at scrum time; they work overtime in that area and have hatched their whole game around it."

"Not many sides can hold them up front, and if you add to that their consistency, the

fact that they are more capable than any of their rivals of biding their form, then you have to say they are potential champions.

"As for us, Premiership points are almost of secondary importance now. The priority is to crack the secret of maintaining our concentration and commitment throughout the full 80 minutes of a game, something we still find impossible away from home."

"I've been here three years now, and it's time we put this whole away thing behind us. Look at the top sides and you see 15 players with real belief that they will win, no matter how bad things might seem. If you have two or three without that belief, as we do, it spreads like a cancer through the whole side. We need to start believing."

Leicester's levels of belief

are positively Papal and, even at this relatively early stage of the campaign, it is difficult to argue with the Gospel According to Saint Deano.

"The beauty of these players is their perfectionism," he beamed on Saturday evening. "They know the perfect game of rugby is unachievable, but it doesn't stop them trying." For all their flaws at Kingsholm – and they were far from immaculate in many areas – they are well on course for a taste of heaven in May.

Gloucester: Tries Johnson, Mapletto; Conversion Mapletto; Penalties Stimpson 6. Leicester: C Collins, S Johnson (M Mapletto, 36), T Fancula, R Tombs (capt), P Saint-Andre, S Marwick, J Sanders (S Barton, 61), A Woods, F Forsey (N McCarthy, 1-4), A Dawson (A Powles, 63), R Fidler, M Cornwell (D Sims, 63), K Jones, S Ojomoh, N Carver. Gloucester: T Stimpson; L Lloyd, S Potts, P Howard, O Loughrey, G Murphy, A Hesley, G Rowntree (O Jolley, 69), R Cockrell, D Garrahan, M Johnson (capt), F Van Heerden, P Gubbard, M Corry, N Back. Referee: N Williams (Wales).

Bath slump to record fifth defeat

PROFESSIONAL sportsmen adhere to the principle that you make your luck. If that is the case, then right now Bath are making the wrong sort of luck. Their acting captain, Andy Nicol, not the most fortunate of players when it comes to injury, lasted just nine minutes of the bitter defeat against Saracens before joining a growing queue of casualties in the Bath squad.

Suspected medial ligament damage to his left knee – to be confirmed later today – could keep him out for the rest of the season; at best he will be out of action for a few weeks. When the names of Phil de Glanville, out for 10 weeks after an operation on his dislocated shoulder, Mark Regan (two more weeks after concussion), captain Richard Webster (another fortnight) and Jon Preston (four months after surgery on a ruptured Achilles tendon) are added to the equation, anyone would feel entitled to whinge.

But the reigning European champions, while not playing well, are not panicking yet. If the first thing that their coach, Andy Robinson, did was to reach for a can of Bath's sponsors' cider after crashing to an unprecedented fifth league defeat in a row, no one was blaming him.

"You don't mind me turning to alcohol?" he quipped, before settling down to parry the awkward questions. The boos and jeers which had followed Bath off the pitch would still have been echoing in his head and they would have hurt him.

"The fans are entitled to their opinion," acknowledged Robinson between sips. "We deserved it the way we played today." But pain was screwed harshly into the features of the man who shared in some more celebrated records as a player with the once mighty club.

Robinson has more reason than most to bemoan his side's fortunes, but to him they would be mere excuses and he has never resorted to those. "We have to front this up and ask what we are going to do about it," said the former England flanker. "There are a lot of proud people at this club."

And he rejected a suggestion made last week that the soul had gone out of the club. "We are just not playing well," insisted Robinson, who has had supporters advising him in no uncertain terms to resign, "and

BY DAVID LLEWELLYN

Bath 11
Saracens 19

when you are down, and you are losing, things do not go for you. But I am not going to give this up. I am not going to walk out on Bath. I still think there is plenty for us to play for this season and we have the ability."

Mark Evans, Saracens' director of rugby, seemed almost shocked by inept performances from both sides. "This was a shadow of previous Bath sides," he said. "For so long Bath have been in a league of their own. They had an aura about them, but that clearly does not exist any longer. I wonder if it will exist again for anybody."

Robinson insisted that comparison with past Bath sides was a non-starter. "It is time to consign the old, amateur Bath to history where it belongs," he said. "The old Bath was great and to be a part of it was fabulous, but now we are into something else. Our history did not come about through brilliant rugby; it was because we won."

"Winning is the important thing and it's a lot harder these days. The game is in a world-wide market and there are players of outstanding talent from overseas playing for English clubs, which was not possible in the amateur era."

The Bath public, weaned on a diet of incredible success, is finding a new regimen of defeat unpalatable, but Robinson will not be moved that easily; he has given too much to the club. Nor will he venture into the transfer market. Not for him the short-term solution. He has been nurturing youth and is unafraid to blood the youngsters.

"I'll be looking at some young players in the club," said Robinson. "We have plenty of options and a lot of talent coming through." The other clubs may have pulled the plug, but not all the water has gurgled down the plughole yet.

Bath: Tries Bishaw; Penalties Carr 2. Saracens: Tries Ravenscroft; Conversion Johnson; Penalties Johnson 3. Drop goal Jonsson. Bath: M Perry, I Bishaw, K Maugh, J Guscott, A Adebayo, M Carr, A Nicol (capt), S Huxley, S D Hilton (J Mallett, 73), A Long, V Ugochi, S Barthwick (S Sturham, 50), N Redman, R Earmshaw (N Thomas, 50), O Lytle, E Peters. Saracens: S Johnson; S Daniel, R Connolly, S Ravenscroft, R Wallace, A Penard, K Bracken, D Flanagan (B Reidy, 72), G Chute, P Wallace, (S Bredy 31-40), P Jones, O Grewcock, T Coker (P Ogilvy, 66), T Diprose, F Pienaar (capt). Referee: A Rowden (Wales).



The Saracens captain, Francois Pienaar, breaks loose to ask searching questions of a depleted Bath side at the Recreation Ground on Saturday

Peter Jay

Sweet revenge as the Best men win

DICK BEST, who might have been a slave driver had he not become a rugby coach, announced that he was giving the London Irish squad Christmas Day off. "I'm weakening," he said.

Best was imbued with the festive spirit following the Exiles' rousing victory over Harlequins at Sunbury By 7pm, 8,800 pints had been drunk in the club house bars, and that was just Guinness. A win in the Premiership is always welcome, but beating Quins has almost become one of Best's missions in life.

BY TIM GLOVER

London Irish 20
Harlequins 16

After being dismissed as their coach, Best took the club to an industrial tribunal until Quins settled at the 11th hour. Andy Keast, who was also shown the door at The Stoop, works as Best's assistant at London Irish but in an unofficial capacity. He is being paid by Quins up to June and until that time cannot be employed by any other club. "I don't receive a penny from London

Irish," Keast said. Thus, on Saturday, he too supped a delicious cocktail called Revenge.

Last season, Quins hit a new low at Sunbury, conceding 60 points. This time round they arrived having won six Premiership matches in a row but were without their player-coach, Zinzan Brooke.

Leading 16-10 midway through the second half, Quins conceded a penalty try for not retreating 10 yards when the Irish were awarded a series of penalties close to their opponents' line.

Despite a shambolic perfor-

mance at the line-out, the Irish deserved their success in front of a crowd of 5,460.

They were far more adventurous and their first half try by Stephen Bachop was quite magnificent. Jarrod Cunningham, fielding a kick near his own line, brilliantly turned defence into attack and the move was sustained by Connor O'Shea in the back row.

"I'm very proud," Best said. "We played with some passion and proved we can be a good side if we can win 50 per cent of the line-outs. The team is starting to gel and it may be the

start of something. This has helped make Christmas almost tolerable."

London Irish will not get much of a break. On Boxing Day they play Richmond at the Madejski Stadium, Richmond, of course, felt compelled to move from the Athletic Ground after their plans to develop the facilities were stymied by the local council. London Irish are in a similar position at Sunbury.

They have been talking to Chelsea about a possible move to Stamford Bridge but they have not given up hope of staying at Sunbury where they own

19 acres. If they are not allowed to develop the ground, they could sell the land for housing and that might be a more unattractive proposition to the local residents.

London Irish: Tries Bachop, Penalties Collins, Cunningham (2), Penalties Cunningham (2). Harlequins: Tries Wood, Conversion Schuster, Penalties Schuster (3). London Irish: C O'Shea (capt), J Bishop, N Surroos (R Todd, 60), S Venner, J Cunningham (N Woods, 80), S Bachop, K Pratt, N Huxley, M Howe (R Kierke, 60), K Fullman (R Handrick, 71), R Smyth, M O'Kelly, J Boer, R Galtcher (K Spicer, 68), K Dawson. Harlequins: J Williams, O Luger, O O'Connor, J Schuster, O O'Leary (J Meyer, 75), T Lacroix, M Harris (C Wright, 36), G Hagan (D Barnes, 68), K Wood, J Leacock, G Morgan, G Llewellyn, R Jenkins, C Sheehy, A Leach. Referee: E Morrison (RFU).

Cardiff consider secession

CARDIFF HINTED last night they are considering joining another union in the event of possible expulsion or secession from the Welsh Rugby Union. Their chief executive, Gareth Davies, indicated the move after watching Cardiff throw away a substantial lead, and almost certain victory, to slump to their fourth consecutive Anglo-Welsh defeat.

Cardiff, and their fellow rebels Swansea, are refusing to pay a £150,000 fine imposed on them by the WRU for arranging these unsanctioned friendly matches against English clubs. "We are certainly not going to pay the fine," declared Davies. "One option for the WRU is to expel us for not paying the fine. We can't wait until

BY DAVID LLEWELLYN

Waspas 24
Cardiff 28

the 28 February deadline before deciding what to do. We have to look at the options open to us in the event of that."

One of those would be to join the Rugby Football Union, a logical step given the Anglo-Welsh set-up, and Davies did not rule that out. "It is almost getting to the stage where we will have to approach another union," he said.

Cardiff do not even know when they can play Llandovery in the Swalec Cup. Building work at the Arms Park delayed Saturday's fourth round tie. Cardiff have offered any mid-

week date between now and the end of January, but the junior club claims too many of their amateur players cannot take time off.

So all that is left is the Anglo-Welsh series. And on the evidence of this little thriller, cross-border competition should prove beneficial all-round to northern hemisphere rugby. It kept a 4,395 crowd interested to the end despite the chill.

Gregori Kacala, Cardiff's monster Pole at the back of the scrum's one-man stampedes scattered opposition bodies. Behind him Lee Jarvis frequently got his backs moving and the powerful and pacy Leigh Davies posed plenty of problems. His two breaks in the

same move, and his cunning grubber kick, led to Cardiff's opening try by stand-off Jarvis.

But Wasps' four tries were, in the end, decisive. The first saw hooker Simon Mitchell speed into the right hand corner, the second came from young prop Andrew Le Chevalier, and the third from replacement hooker Dinos Alexopoulos. Josh Lewsey got the crucial touch-down late in the game.

Wasps: Tries Mitchell, Le Chevalier, Alexopoulos, Lewsey, Conversion King. Cardiff: Tries Jarvis, Humphreys, Conversion Jarvis, Penalties Jarvis 4. Wasps: J Lewsey, S Rother, L Scarle, M Greenstock, P Sampson, A King, M Wood, A Le Chevalier, S Mitchell (D Alexopoulos, 64), W Green (capt), A Reed, S Shaw (M Weedon, 50), E Kollitt, P Schriener, F Rossignol (J Worsley, 64). Cardiff: C Morgan; S Hill, L Davies, M Wintle, A Sullivan, L Jarvis, R Jones, A Lewis, J Humphreys (capt), P Young, (34), J Meehan, R Stewart (B Moore, 64), D Jones, O Williams, G Kacala, D Smith (S Moore, 60-61). Referee: G Bowden (Wales Well).

Newcastle grab Sale bargain

BY PAUL STEPHENS

Newcastle 30
Sale 15

from a foregone conclusion. And with Sale being the most likely to interrupt those ambitions, the two points they picked up against the Manchester side was a handy start.

On a crisp, dry afternoon, the game got off to a cracking start. What distinguishes Newcastle from most teams in the Premiership is that they invariably make the most of advantageous field positions; especially at Kingston Park, where they have not tasted defeat in the league for almost three years. Within two minutes Newcastle had established a foothold deep

in Sale territory. From the line-out, Daddie Weir popped the ball to Pete Walton, and Gary Armstrong burrowed over for a trademark try.

Sale's response was immediate and telling. Peter Anglesea was allowed too much time on the ball. Richard Smith and Shane Howarth took it on, and Steve Haney completed the move for a superb try. While this was a sharp reminder of Sale's ability to score tries from all parts of the field, it was not until Shane Howarth scored a delightful individual try in the third quarter that Sale offered any real threat.

If only they could add some substance to their style, and find a way of winning more often away from Heywood

Road, they would be in the top half of the table.

However, if Jonny Wilkinson and Rob Andrew had not missed four conversions, defeat would have been more emphatic and a try count of five to two tells its own story. Stuart Legg bagged two, and Martin Shaw another, before the break. Thereafter, only Howarth and Archer took the eye, as Peter Anglesea, Kevin Ellis and Ross Nesdale were sent to the sin-bin. Newcastle Tries Armstrong, Legg 2, Shaw, Archer, Conversion Wilkinson, Penalties Wilkinson, Tries Howarth, Haney, Conversion Howarth, Penalties Howarth. Sale: S Legg, J Naylor, M Shaw, J Wilkinson, V Tait-Morris, R Andrew (capt), G Armstrong, G Graham, R Nesdale, M Harris, D Hogg, G Archer, P Walton, J Carmichael (R Horton, 67), Searle. Newcastle: J Mullender (capt), M Moore, D Hogg, S Vines, S Hanley, G Howarth, R Smith, C O'Brien, P Wilkinson, P Greening, D Bick, S Rawlins, D Baldwin, P Anglesea, P Sanderson (A Sanderson, 73), J Macfarlane. Referee: R Dickson (Scotland).

Hunters feed grist to Mill

WHEN A horse is owned by the company behind a tipping service it is a fair bet that subscribers to that line are going to be among its most enthusiastic supporters. Yesterday, just 24 hours after betting opened on Boxing Day's King George VI Chase, Teton Mill, owned by the Winning Line tipping service, was the subject of a plunge for the big race.

Available at 9-2 before betting opened yesterday, Teton Mill is now generally a 3-1 chance, although Stanley Racing still offers 7-2. There is a good chance that those odds will be taken and that Teton Mill will usurp See More Business at the head of the market at some stage during a week in which there is little live racing to keep punters amused.

Caution should be exercised. A similar gamble on Teton Mill took place before

former Seven Towers came in for misplaced support. In other words, do not rush down to your High Street shop this morning with your Christmas club money, but contemplate your selection over a turkey sandwich on Boxing Day when the important factor of the going can be included.

RICHARD EDMONDSON
Map: Rainstorm
(Lingfield 3.40)
NB: Aofie
(Lingfield 2.40)

The grey's trainer, Venetia Williams, said yesterday: "Teton Mill is fine and ready for Kempton and, within reason, won't mind what the ground is. "He was impressive at Newbury, but I don't know if he's improving because he won on the bridge at Wincanton (on his previous outing) and was equally impressive that day."

Imperial Call has been given the go-ahead for the Kempton race in an attempt to end Ireland's long lean spell in the £100,000 prize. The last Irish-trained horse to lift the race was Captain Christy, the winner in 1974 and 1975.

Raymond Hurley, trainer of the 1996 Cheltenham Gold Cup winner, said that the nine-year-old will fly over from Cork on Christmas Eve.

"The going at Kempton is soft, I understand," Hurley said. "And this suits us. I would only change my mind if, for some reason, the ground dried out but this is unlikely."

Not so unlikely, perhaps, as yesterday the official bulletin from Kempton was that the ground was good to soft, good in places. With some fierce winds blowing South East England, there is every chance that the track could dry out further, which would make Leopardstown's Ericsson Chase a week today an enticing alternative. Hurley still hopes to sign up either Richard Dunwoody or Tony McCoy for the ride.

Super Tactics, who has won five times at the course including a fine victory in last season's Racing Post Chase, is reported to be in fine form for the stiffest task of his career so far. Last year's winning jockey with See More Business, Andrew Thornton, takes the ride.



Real talent: Get Real clears the water jump at Ascot on Saturday on the way to success in the Frognore Chase

Julian Herbert/Allsport

KEMPTON - BOXING DAY

2.20 PERTEMPS KING GEORGE VI CHASE (CLASS A) £100,000 added 3m Penalty Value £50,000

- 40-40 CHALLENGER DU LUC (2) (D) A Johnson M Pice 8 11 10... J Osborne
40-40 COOMBE HILL (2) (D) M J Dwyer M Pice 8 11 10... J Osborne
40-40 ESCARTEFUGUE (2) (D) M J Dwyer M Pice 8 11 10... J Osborne
40-40 ESCARTEFUGUE (2) (D) M J Dwyer M Pice 8 11 10... J Osborne
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40-40 ESCARTEFUGUE (2) (D) M J Dwyer M Pice 8 11 10... J Osborne
40-40 ESCARTEFUGUE (2) (D) M J Dwyer M Pice 8 11 10... J Osborne

Don't: 9-4 See More Business, 3-1 Teton Mill, 4-1 Imperial Call, 9-2 Simply Dashing, 9-4 Escartefugue, 14-1 Challenger Du Luc, 16-1 Coombe Hill, 20-1 Super Tactics, 23-1 Coombe Hill, 50-1 Coombe Hill.

William Hill: 9-4 See More Business, 3-1 Teton Mill, 4-1 Imperial Call, 5-1 Simply Dashing, 8-1 Escartefugue, 12-1 Challenger Du Luc, 16-1 Coombe Hill, 20-1 Super Tactics, 23-1 Coombe Hill, 50-1 Coombe Hill.

Ladbrokes: 9-4 See More Business, 3-1 Teton Mill, 4-1 Imperial Call, 5-1 Simply Dashing, 8-1 Escartefugue, 12-1 Challenger Du Luc, 16-1 Coombe Hill, 20-1 Super Tactics, 23-1 Coombe Hill, 50-1 Coombe Hill.

Stanley: 9-4 See More Business, 3-1 Teton Mill, 4-1 Imperial Call, 5-1 Simply Dashing, 8-1 Escartefugue, 12-1 Challenger Du Luc, 16-1 Coombe Hill, 20-1 Super Tactics, 23-1 Coombe Hill, 50-1 Coombe Hill.

LINGFIELD

12.40 Night City

1.10 Priors Moor

1.40 Prince Consort

2.10 Ranaon (nb)

COINGS Standard

STALLS: 5-1 outside; 10-1 inside. **DRAW ADVANTAGE:** Low best up to 71.

Course: 6-1/2 furlongs. **Going:** Good to soft. **Weather:** Cloudy. **Wind:** Light S.W.

LEADING JOCKEYS: J. W. Porter 8-11, J. W. Porter 8-11, J. W. Porter 8-11.

FAVOURITES: 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11.

BLINDING FIRST TIME: 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11.

LONG DISTANCE TRAVELLERS: 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11.

12.40 CHRISTMAS APPRENTICE HANDICAP (CLASS G) £2,500 added 1m 5f Penalty Value £1,737

1. 0001 NIGHT CITY (14) (D) (J) W. Porter 8-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11.

2. 0002 NIGHT CITY (14) (D) (J) W. Porter 8-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11.

3. 0003 NIGHT CITY (14) (D) (J) W. Porter 8-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11.

4. 0004 NIGHT CITY (14) (D) (J) W. Porter 8-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11.

5. 0005 NIGHT CITY (14) (D) (J) W. Porter 8-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11.

6. 0006 NIGHT CITY (14) (D) (J) W. Porter 8-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11.

7. 0007 NIGHT CITY (14) (D) (J) W. Porter 8-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11.

8. 0008 NIGHT CITY (14) (D) (J) W. Porter 8-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11.

9. 0009 NIGHT CITY (14) (D) (J) W. Porter 8-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11.

10. 0010 NIGHT CITY (14) (D) (J) W. Porter 8-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11.

11. 0011 NIGHT CITY (14) (D) (J) W. Porter 8-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11.

12. 0012 NIGHT CITY (14) (D) (J) W. Porter 8-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11.

13. 0013 NIGHT CITY (14) (D) (J) W. Porter 8-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11.

14. 0014 NIGHT CITY (14) (D) (J) W. Porter 8-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11.

15. 0015 NIGHT CITY (14) (D) (J) W. Porter 8-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11.

16. 0016 NIGHT CITY (14) (D) (J) W. Porter 8-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11.

17. 0017 NIGHT CITY (14) (D) (J) W. Porter 8-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11.

18. 0018 NIGHT CITY (14) (D) (J) W. Porter 8-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11.

19. 0019 NIGHT CITY (14) (D) (J) W. Porter 8-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11.

20. 0020 NIGHT CITY (14) (D) (J) W. Porter 8-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11.

21. 0021 NIGHT CITY (14) (D) (J) W. Porter 8-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11.

22. 0022 NIGHT CITY (14) (D) (J) W. Porter 8-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11.

23. 0023 NIGHT CITY (14) (D) (J) W. Porter 8-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11.

24. 0024 NIGHT CITY (14) (D) (J) W. Porter 8-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11.

25. 0025 NIGHT CITY (14) (D) (J) W. Porter 8-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11.

26. 0026 NIGHT CITY (14) (D) (J) W. Porter 8-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11.

27. 0027 NIGHT CITY (14) (D) (J) W. Porter 8-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11.

28. 0028 NIGHT CITY (14) (D) (J) W. Porter 8-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11.

29. 0029 NIGHT CITY (14) (D) (J) W. Porter 8-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11.

Edmondson on track with Express

RICHARD EDMONDSON, the racing correspondent of the Independent, strengthened his position at the top of the Racing Post naps table for newspaper tipsters when Torduff Express won Saturday's main event, the Betterware Chase, at odds of 9-2. Princiful, at 11-4, completed a 19-1 double for Edmondson in the day's other feature race at Ascot. Edmondson's Saturday followers were rewarded with the 33-1 success of Alzooome the previous week and the victory of Torduff Express hoists the profit to a £1 level stake on all his naps this season to £36.38.

Injury misery for Murphy

TIMMY MURPHY, who must suffer the frustration of his former partner See More Business starting favourite for Boxing Day's King George VI Chase under a new jockey, Joe Tizzard, is to take a week's rest from riding after suffering a fall at Lingfield on Friday. Murphy and his mount, Eurroband, were out of contention in a novice hurdle when taking a crashing fall at the second last fence. "I'm just feeling a bit sore," Murphy, who has lost his position as principal rider for

Paul Nicholls's stable, said. "There's nothing broken but I have a bad old injury and I'm uncomfortable around my ribs and shoulders. I'm looking forward to coming back on Boxing Day."

Kiereo Fallon continued his good run in Hong Kong on Saturday by landing a double at Sha Tin on Sar Tourism and the well-named Grand Start. British champion has now ridden five winners in the territory since his three-month stint began at the start of December.

Michael Hills, another jockey on a three-month contract, was also among the winners aboard Always Cheerful in a 10-furlong handicap. This took Hills on to the three-winner mark. The all-weather card on Lingfield's Equitrac provides the only racing in Britain today as the meeting at Kells has fallen victim to frost. "Unfortunately it's untraceable, particularly in the straight, and it's already starting to freeze," the clerk of the course, Johnnie Fowlicke-Ciennell, said.

Record is threatened

SOAKED AND Sihafi again attempt to become record-breakers when lining up against 10 opponents at Lingfield today. Last Wednesday at Wolverhampton, Sihafi failed in his attempt to land a record 10th handicap success of the year by only a short head to Pride Of Brixton, with Soaked in sixth. With nine handicap wins each to their credit in 1998, they share the 30th-Century record with Chapsin Club, Glencroft, Vindaloo and Star Rage.

FIRST SHOW

Lingfield 2.40

	C	H	L	S	T
Shaf	41	41	51	51	51
Shaf	41	41	51	51	51
Shaf	41	41	51	51	51
Shaf	41	41	51	51	51
Shaf	41	41	51	51	51
Shaf	41	41	51	51	51
Shaf	41	41	51	51	51
Shaf	41	41	51	51	51
Shaf	41	41	51	51	51
Shaf	41	41	51	51	51

ASCOT

Gong: Good to Soft (Hurdles Soft)
12.35: 1. KURAKKA (R. Dwyer) 7-2; 2. Strong Palatin 16-1; 3. Driftgale 3-1; 4. Country Bump 16-1; 5. Country Bump 16-1; 6. Country Bump 16-1; 7. Country Bump 16-1; 8. Country Bump 16-1; 9. Country Bump 16-1; 10. Country Bump 16-1.

LINGFIELD

Gong: Good to Soft (Hurdles Soft)
11.50: 1. CASTLES BURNING (G. Fallon) 4-1; 2. Ginner Morris 3-1; 3. Conqueror 5-1; 4. Ginner Morris 3-1; 5. Conqueror 5-1; 6. Ginner Morris 3-1; 7. Conqueror 5-1; 8. Ginner Morris 3-1; 9. Conqueror 5-1; 10. Ginner Morris 3-1.

SEASONS GREETINGS MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £4,000 added 7f Penalty Value £2,788

1. 0001 RUSSIAN (14) (D) (J) W. Porter 8-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11.
2. 0002 RUSSIAN (14) (D) (J) W. Porter 8-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11.
3. 0003 RUSSIAN (14) (D) (J) W. Porter 8-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11.
4. 0004 RUSSIAN (14) (D) (J) W. Porter 8-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11.
5. 0005 RUSSIAN (14) (D) (J) W. Porter 8-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11.
6. 0006 RUSSIAN (14) (D) (J) W. Porter 8-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11.
7. 0007 RUSSIAN (14) (D) (J) W. Porter 8-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11.
8. 0008 RUSSIAN (14) (D) (J) W. Porter 8-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11.
9. 0009 RUSSIAN (14) (D) (J) W. Porter 8-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11.
10. 0010 RUSSIAN (14) (D) (J) W. Porter 8-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11, 7-11.

WARWICK

Gong: Good to Soft
12.30: 1. ANDY LAD (P. McNamee) 11-2; 2. Thrillingly 50-1; 3. Builder Boy 25-1; 4. Starmel 50-1; 5. 1st 17-1; 6. 1st 17-1; 7. 1st 17-1; 8. 1st 17-1; 9. 1st 17-1; 10. 1st 17-1.

FORM GUIDE

1.20: 1. NOMEOR MR NICEGUY (T. Sprake) 3-1; 2. Italian Symphony 15-2; 3. Centenary 15-2; 4. 1st 17-1; 5. 1st 17-1; 6. 1st 17-1; 7. 1st 17-1; 8. 1st 17-1; 9. 1st 17-1; 10. 1st 17-1.

UTTOXETER

Gong: Soft
12.30: 1. JUNGLE (J. McCarthy) 8-3; 2. 1st 17-1; 3. 1st 17-1; 4. 1st 17-1; 5. 1st 17-1; 6. 1st 17-1; 7. 1st 17-1; 8. 1st 17-1; 9. 1st 17-1; 10. 1st 17-1.

VERDICT: A fairly wide-open event with See More Business starting favourite for Boxing Day's King George VI Chase under a new jockey, Joe Tizzard, is to take a week's rest from riding after suffering a fall at Lingfield on Friday.

Ball displays strength of 'dying breed'

"SEX & CHOCOLATE for a quid" came the exhortation outside St Andrew's. It turned out to be a far more sedate affair than a raucous celebration, but if the ensuing struggle did little for the erogenous zones or sweet teeth, it certainly warmed 22,000 hearts.

There are few occasions when the rival supporters, players and managers share a glow of satisfaction after a goalless draw, yet this was one. Sunderland maintained both their substantial lead in the First Division and Britain's only unbeaten away record, while the way Birmingham tested their mettle confirmed them as play-off candidates at the very least.

If the home side had more of the match territorially, forcing 11 corners to three, all but one of the better scoring opportunities belonged to Sunderland. The fluctuating nature of the contest was embodied by Gary Rowett, the right-back Birmingham bought from Derby in August, who went from the ridiculous to the sublime in the space of three minutes in the closing stages.

Touted by his manager, Trevor Francis, as worthy of Glenn Hoddle's consideration in a position where England have relatively limited options, Rowett found himself in the heart of Sunderland's six-yard area with the ball at his feet. Swinging first with his left and then with his right, he failed to connect with either.

Instead, he toppled over on to his backside as if struck by a sniper. Francis generously suggested the ball might have stuck in the mud. Rowett, refreshingly willing to laugh at himself as he watched his aberration replayed on television, called it "just one of those things".

The chance to make amends

FOOTBALL

BY PHIL SHAW

Birmingham City 0
Sunderland 0

came almost immediately. A superb pass by one of Sunderland's substitutes, Gavin McCann, enabled Daniele Di Chicco to flick the ball past the goalkeeper, Kevin Poole. As it rolled towards the net, Rowett materialised, a trifle nonchalantly for the more highly strung Birmingham fans, to shepherd it to safety.

The game's most influential performer went about his work in less dramatic fashion. Kevin Ball, Sunderland's captain and midfield anchor, won more tackles in an afternoon than many players make in a season, prompting his coach, Adrian Heath, to hail him as "a true pro, one of a dying breed".

Ball might not have challenged for the ball with quite the same aggression had the referee, Mark Halsey, not neglected to caution him for an early foul on Dele Adebola. That said, Mr Halsey seldom missed any indiscretion but waited for a judicious moment to have a discreet word with the culprit. His approach allowed the match to build up a head of steam; only the excellence of the defences stopped it from reaching the ball.

Sunderland would have to suffer the kind of collapse in which England's cricketers specialise to miss out on a Premiership return for the second season running. Up front, the free-scoring Kevin Phillips is close to fitness after a three-month absence. At the back, bolstered by Niall Quinn's height at set-pieces, they have also kept six successive clean sheets.

After just four defeats in 30 League games, Peter Reid's assertion that his team were "hard to beat" was a statement of what Basil Fawcett called "the bleedin' obvious". The Sunderland manager admitted Rowett's blunder was "a bit of luck" but he argued that it was well earned. "Trevor's got a good side here," he said. "It's a hard place to get a result."

Francis, who played alongside Reid for England and made him one of his first recruits as a manager with Queen's Park Rangers, was "not too unhappy" with one point. "Sunderland are the outstanding team in the division and will win the championship convincingly. But I don't think we could have been any more positive."

However, when the mutual respect abated he may have reflected on Birmingham's failure to get behind the visitors' full-backs; and on the patchy showing by his muscular forwards, Adebola and Paul Furlong, who punched their weight only spasmodically.

Birmingham are a far more sophisticated side than the one bequeathed by Barry Fry. Churchill as it may sound so soon after their second seven-goal away win this year, at Oxford a week earlier, the key to whether they can end their 13-year exile from the top section could lie in Francis's capacity to coax greater menace from his attackers.

Birmingham City (4-4-2): Poole; Roberts, Ablett, Johnson, Marsh (Wosall, 66); McCarthy, O'Connor, Robinson, Furlong, Adebola. Substitutes not used: Forsyth, Hughes. Sunderland (4-4-2): Sorensen; Mahin, Melville, Butler, Scott; Rae (Williams, 72), Ball, Clark, Gray (McCann, 72); Bridges, Quinn (Dochie, 79). Referee: M Halsey (Melway Garden City). Bookings: Walsall (Walsall); Sunderland (Ball, Butler, Man of the match: Ball. Attendance: 22,095.



David Platt, in his new role as Sampdoria team supervisor, looks on intently as his charges earn a late draw with Milan yesterday *Empics*

Platt plays a watching game

AFTER ALL the controversy surrounding his appointment, David Platt was probably glad to be able to watch a football match yesterday.

The former England international, who was asked to take on the challenge of resurrecting the fortunes of Sampdoria last week, looked on from the stands at a rain-lashed Stadio Luigi Ferraris as the club he used to play for held Milan to a 2-2 draw.

Sampdoria have been unable to call Platt their coach as he does not hold an Italian coaching certificate, so he has the title of team supervisor and his assistant, Giorgio Veneri, is officially the team's coach. This

OVERSEAS ROUND-UP

BY RUPERT METCALF

subterfuge was not enough to satisfy the Italian Football Federation, hence Platt's banishment from the bench yesterday.

Platt, who will have been impressed by his team's fighting spirit, was in radio contact with Veneri. "We had prepared this match so well that there was little to say about it," the 59-year-old veteran coach said. "I only spoke to him [Platt] twice."

For much of the first half, Milan threatened to run riot, but the German striker Oliver Bierhoff's failure to convert a

series of chances meant the visitors only had a Leonardo goal to show for their domination.

Francesco Palmieri levelled the scores early in the second half before Bierhoff finally found the target with a powerful long-range header from Bruno N'Gotty's cross in the 72nd minute. The Argentinian playmaker, Ariel Ortega, secured a vital point for Sampdoria with a curling free-kick in his first match back since suspension following a drunken driving incident in Genoa.

The Japanese midfielder, Hidetoshi Nakata, kept his nerve to convert a penalty five minutes into stoppage time as Perugia held the Serie A lead-

ers, Fiorentina, to a 2-2 draw. Milan Rapaglie put the home team ahead after just 20 seconds, but Anselmo Robbiati's 10th minute free-kick and Gabriel Batistuta's 14th goal in 14 matches put the leaders 2-1 up going into injury time.

Nakata's spot-kick, following a handball by Guillermo Amor, was his seventh goal in his first season in Serie A. It allowed Parma to cut Fiorentina's lead to three points with a thrilling 5-3 victory at Empoli.

In France, Bordeaux ended the year with a 6-0 thrashing of Metz on Saturday but Marseilles stayed top, three points clear of Bordeaux, with a 2-0 defeat of Le Havre.

Marseilles, beaten only once before the winter break, retained their lead thanks to two goals from Robert Pires either side of half-time, while Lilian Laslandes scored a hat-trick for Bordeaux.

Paris St Germain, who have failed to score in their last five matches, lost 2-0 at Lorient, for whom Patrice Loko scored twice against his former club. Monaco, who lost 1-0 at home to Lyons, are expected to sack their coach, Jean Tigana, during the winter break.

In Bangkok, Iran beat Kuwait 2-0 to win the Asian Games football final. Peter Withe's Thailand side lost 3-0 to China in the third-place play-off.

Walsall worthy of the big occasion

ONE OF the persistent complaints against new grounds, particularly those belonging to clubs that do not regularly draw big crowds, is that they have no soul or atmosphere.

The Bescot Stadium, Walsall's functional home for eight years, looks as much like a B&Q extension as any, but, as unprecedented numbers rallied there to watch the Saddlers in this Second Division promotion game, one thing it did not lack was a sense of occasion.

Walsall and their neighbours from up the M6 approach a match like this from opposite directions. Like their manager, Brian Little, Stoke have seen bigger days and grander stages. For Walsall, a few Cup adventures aside, this is as good as it gets.

Stoke remain a big club in hibernation; Walsall were excited and delighted by a crowd of 9,056 - a record for the club at Bescot.

The hope expressed by their manager, Ray Graydon, was that most of the newcomers would be back to boost the

BY DAVID HADFIELD

Walsall 1
Stoke City 0

club's modest average. "The fans would go away and say that was good entertainment," he said. "In fact, if any of them aren't satisfied, I'll give them some money out of my own pocket. The players responded to what they got from the crowd."

Walsall certainly had the look of a side that gives value for money, working tirelessly

Naylor provides Suffolk punch

RICHARD NAYLOR grabbed a late winner to earn Ipswich Town a deserved 2-1 victory at Sheffield United yesterday, after Paul Devlin looked to have salvaged a First Division point for Sheffield United with his first goal of the season.

Naylor rose highest to reach Jamie Clapham's free-kick in the dying seconds to deliver an explosive finish to a poor game.

and with no little skill to deservedly edge out opposition who have far greater resources on tap.

Graydon's own investments have proved sound, particularly the enlistment of the strikers, Walter Otta and Andy Rammell. The flair of the Argentinian has been a revelation in the Second Division, although Saturday was a day more for the direct approach of the former Barnsley man, who dived to head the winner and proved a handful throughout.

There is quality elsewhere in

the side, with Neil Poynton and Paul Simpson a pair of sprightly veterans down the left flank.

"We've got to make sure that we don't get carried away," said Graydon, who played in the Aston Villa forward line alongside Little. "Stoke put us under terrific pressure, played some good football and, if I were Brian, I'd be disappointed not to come away from the match with something."

Stoke did indeed look a smooth and classy outfit, with no end of midfield craft at their disposal. But their striking options

were limited once the former Walsall man, Kyle Lighthourne, succumbed to the flu he had thought he could overcome.

Little blamed himself for giving Lighthourne the option of playing, but there was little in this defeat to suggest that Stoke will not be there or thereabouts at the end of the season.

As he said, the fact that their next match is against another promotion candidate - Preston - gives them the chance to get back on course without delay.

Bescot has some way to go before it becomes a Theatre of Dreams, but the evidence is that its team is on the up. Graydon may have built and run it on the cheap, but the side might have enough to embarrass a Stoke, or even a Fulham, at the end of the campaign.

Goal: Rammell (41). Walsall (4-4-2): Walker, Marsh, Green, Roger Poynton, Wicks, Larsson, Keston, Slingsby, Rammell, Otta (Barnett, 66). Substitutes not used: Gaddsy, Porter, B. Glynne, 10; Thomas, 25; Postle, 26; Cross, 27; Keys, 28; Durrant, 29; P. Poynton, 30; P. Poynton, 31; Small, 32; O'Connell, 33; Keston, 34; Poynton, 35; Poynton, 36; Poynton, 37; Poynton, 38; Poynton, 39; Poynton, 40; Poynton, 41; Poynton, 42; Poynton, 43; Poynton, 44; Poynton, 45; Poynton, 46; Poynton, 47; Poynton, 48; Poynton, 49; Poynton, 50; Poynton, 51; Poynton, 52; Poynton, 53; Poynton, 54; Poynton, 55; Poynton, 56; Poynton, 57; Poynton, 58; Poynton, 59; Poynton, 60; Poynton, 61; Poynton, 62; Poynton, 63; Poynton, 64; Poynton, 65; Poynton, 66; Poynton, 67; Poynton, 68; Poynton, 69; Poynton, 70; Poynton, 71; Poynton, 72; Poynton, 73; Poynton, 74; Poynton, 75; Poynton, 76; Poynton, 77; Poynton, 78; Poynton, 79; Poynton, 80; Poynton, 81; Poynton, 82; Poynton, 83; Poynton, 84; Poynton, 85; Poynton, 86; Poynton, 87; Poynton, 88; Poynton, 89; Poynton, 90; Poynton, 91; Poynton, 92; Poynton, 93; Poynton, 94; Poynton, 95; Poynton, 96; Poynton, 97; Poynton, 98; Poynton, 99; Poynton, 100; Poynton, 101; Poynton, 102; Poynton, 103; Poynton, 104; Poynton, 105; Poynton, 106; Poynton, 107; 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THAT WAS THE WEEKEND THAT WAS

EDITED BY JON CULLEY

Bristol's foreign legion cope with culture shock

BRISTOL CITY, with only two wins in 12 League games following Saturday's defeat at Norwich, have an unashamed policy of buying foreign in hopes of leaving the lower reaches of the First Division. They believe that the domestic market is simply too expensive, and in the last fortnight alone have bought the Hungarian defender Vilmo Sebok, the Danish goalkeeper Bo Andersen and the Norwegian midfielder Kenneth Storvik, the combined fees adding up to less than £1m.

But trawling talent from the far corners of Europe is not without its problems, and language barriers are only part of the culture shock.

When Ion Tisteananu, the Moldovan international captain due to launch his City career after Christmas, arrived for transfer talks at Ashton Gate, he was less concerned with wages than with how many times he would be allowed to see his wife. "Apparently, players in Moldova don't get to see their families more than four times a year."

the City chairman, Scott Davidson, recalled. "He was delighted when I said he could see her as much as he'd like."

Tistemetanu chose City despite offers from Spartak Moscow and Romania's Steaua Bucharest. If granted a work permit, he will receive a welcome pay rise after the £225,000 move from Zimbru Chisinau. In Moldova, he earned £100-a-month, despite international experience against the forwards of Italy, Germany and, at Wembley, England.

Taylor reluctantly joins silent order

AFTER BEING rushed to hospital for emergency surgery on a throat abscess, the former England manager Graham Taylor is grateful just to be back on his feet. But he is, none the less, having to suffer a kind of football manager's purgatory. He is not allowed to shout.

Taylor left touchline duties to his assistant, Kenny Jackett, at Grimsby on Saturday, and watched the Nationwide League match from the Blundell Park directors' box.

"I'm under strict orders to do what the doctor tells me," Taylor said. "And that includes resting my voice."

Naturally, it was left to Jackett to deliver the half-time

rollbacks in the dressing-room. But, to add to Taylor's frustrations, he was helpless to intervene as Watford fell behind four minutes into the second half and then conceded a late Grimsey winner after Gifton Noel-Williams had equalised.

The defeat denied Watford the chance to go second in the First Division table, but Taylor was no less complimentary about Jackett's stand-in performance.

"I do not envisage taking control of team affairs for another two to four weeks," he said.

"But I am more than happy to allow Kenny to continue the excellent job he has been doing."

12
Nottingham Forest's run of failures to keep a clean sheet.

18
The meetings since Tottenham last managed a League win over Chelsea

68
Middlebrough's wait – in years – for a win at Old Trafford. Before Saturday, the last was in 1930

I TOLD YOU SO

We are not in crisis. We are at a turning point

Gérard Houllier, speaking before Saturday's 2-0 win over Sheffield Wednesday. So far, so good – but will it last?

PREMIERSHIP TEAM OF THE WEEK

NATHAN BLAKE Blackburn Rovers	RORY DELAP Derby County	DAN PETRESCU Chelsea
BRIAN DEANE Middlesbrough	JAMIE REDKNAPP Liverpool	MATT ELLIOTT Leicester City
GUSTAVO POYET Chelsea	RIO FERDINAND West Ham	MARK SCHWARZ Middlesbrough
STEPHEN GLASS	DEAN GORDON <i>Leeds</i>	

Manager of the weekend: Gianluca Vialli, the first manager to take Chelsea to the top since Bobby Campbell in 1989-90.

Missing... making it... and mistaken



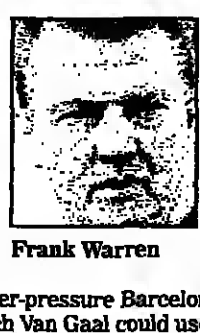
OYVIND LEONHARDSEN
LIVERPOOL.

Signed for £3.5m from Wimbledon in June 1997, the 28-year-old midfielder capped his first season at Anfield by helping Norway reach the second phase of France '98. However, he has failed to find favour with the new Liverpool manager Gérard Houllier. Indeed, Houllier's first match in sole charge last month was Leonhard-son's last



DAMIEN JOHNSON
BLACKBURN

Born in Lishurn, Northern Ireland, the 20-year-old wide midfielder first caught the eye during a loan spell with Nottingham Forest last season and has become a frequent member of the Rovers first team. A clever ball player already recognised at international level, he will provide hot competition for new arrival of Keith Gillespie at Fwood Park.



Frank Warren

Under-pressure Barcelona coach Van Gaal could use some Frank advice on boxing clever. But if surviving life's ups and downs is the name of the game then the cerebral Dutchman will no doubt find Frank's his man



Louis van Gaal

RUMOURS

Kidd keen to lure Butt to Blackburn

BRIAN KIDD wants to prise Nicky Butt away from Manchester United, according to the *People*. The new Blackburn manager, their story says, offered £5.5m within days of leaving Old Trafford and is now ready to up his bid to £7m. The *Sunday Mirror* says he is ready to offload Kevin Davies to help finance incoming deals, but reckons his targets are Barnsley's Ashley Ward and West Ham's John Hartson. Kidd is also keen on United defenders David May and Henning Berg - both ex-Blackburn - according to the *Express*.

The *Express* says Ward remains a target for Leeds and Sheffield Wednesday, who, the *People* thinks, have turned down a £2m offer from Charlton for Andy Booth. The *People* believes Ward will go if Barnsley succeed in a £1m move for young York striker Richard Crosswell. The *News of the World*, meanwhile, suggests Leeds are after Cove-

try's Darren Huckerby, but will have a £5m offer rejected by the Highfield Road club, who want £8m.

Liverpool are checking on Real Madrid goalkeeper Bodo Illgner, says the *Express*, while the *People* speculates that Anfield manager Gérard Houllier has become an admirer of Leicester midfielder Neil Lennon.

The News of the World says Barcelona are ready to offer Alex Ferguson £2m a year to succeed Louis van Gaal as coach, and reports that new Sampdoria boss David Platt has £3m to keep Sheffield Wednesday stay-away Paolo Di Canio in Italy.

On the business front, the *Mirror* predicts that a sell-off of West Ham stars will pave the way for a £35m takeover, while the *News of the World* says NTL's takeover of Newcastle will provide Rurud Gulit with a £20m transfer pot, and a further £15m for youth development.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Tuesday: Aston Villa, whose victory over Arsenal last weekend was their first in five Premier matches, bid to return to the top by winning at Charlton, who are among five clubs beginning to lose touch with the rest of the division.

Monday: A quiet build-up to Christmas, Notts County's home tie with Hull City in the first round of the Auto Windscreens Shield (Northern Section) represents not merely the only game in town but the only one that matters. At the other end of the league, the fight for survival at Meadow Lane is not anticipated.

Saturday: The usual assortment of funny kick-off times as Arsenal meet Manchester City at the Etihad, Tottenham Hotspur visit the home of Coventry (v Tottenham), Everton (v Derby), Manchester United (v Portsmouth), Middlesbrough (v Liverpool), Newcastle (v Leeds) and Sheffield Wednesday (v Ipswich) are the only ones to attract attention. The only game in town (v Chelsea) and Wimbledon (v Charlton) also have noon starts, in the Nationwide League. First Division leaders Sunderland are at Tranmere 1.25pm, while the Championship's top two, Reading and Blackburn, meet at Ewood Park 3pm. Colchester at noon, the same time as Third Division pacemakers Carlisle meet Shrewsbury. North of the border, Scottish Premier leaders Celtic are at Dundee 1.30pm.

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

		Home										Away					5-game form		Upcoming matches
		Pl	Pts	GD	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Most recent on right				
1	Chelsea	18	33	+12	6	3	0	15	5	2	6	1	14	12	DWDDW	28 Dec Man Utd (H); 9 Jan Newcastle (A); 16 Jan Coventry (H); 31 Jan Arsenal (A)			
2	Aston Villa	17	33	+10	6	2	1	17	11	3	4	1	10	6	LDDLW	28 Dec Sheff Wed (H); 9 Jan Middlesbrough (A); 16 Jan Everton (H); 30 Jan Newcastle (A)			
3	Man Utd	18	31	+13	6	3	1	24	12	2	4	2	12	11	WDDDL	28 Dec Chelsea (A); 9 Jan West Ham (H); 16 Jan Leicester (A); 30 Jan Charlton (H)			
4	Middlesbrough	18	30	+9	4	5	0	15	7	3	4	2	15	14	WDDWW	28 Dec Derby (A); 9 Jan Aston Villa (H); 16 Jan Leeds (A); 30 Jan Southampton (H)			
5	Leeds	18	29	+12	5	2	1	16	3	1	6	2	13	14	WLWWL	28 Dec Wimbledon (H); 9 Jan Blackburn (A); 16 Jan Middlesbrough (A); 30 Jan Southampton (H)			
6	Arsenal	18	29	+9	4	5	0	14	4	2	4	3	6	7	LDDLW	28 Dec Charlton (A); 9 Jan Liverpool (H); 16 Jan Nottm Forest (A); 31 Jan Coventry (H)			
7	West Ham	18	29	0	5	3	1	14	10	3	2	4	8	12	WWLLW	28 Dec Coventry (H); 10 Jan Man Utd (A); 16 Jan Sheff Wed (H); 30 Jan Wimbledon (A)			
8	Wimbledon	18	26	-6	5	3	1	14	9	2	2	5	9	20	LWLWW	28 Dec Leeds (A); 9 Jan Derby (H); 16 Jan Tottenham (A); 30 Jan West Ham (H)			
9	Liverpool	18	25	+7	4	3	2	17	10	3	1	5	12	12	WWLLW	28 Dec Newcastle (H); 9 Jan Arsenal (A); 16 Jan Southampton (H); 30 Jan Coventry (H)			
10	Newcastle	18	24	+1	5	2	2	14	10	1	4	4	8	11	LWDDW	28 Dec Liverpool (A); 9 Jan Chelsea (H); 17 Jan Charlton (A); 30 Jan Aston Villa (H)			
11	Leicester	18	24	+1	5	2	2	14	9	1	4	4	7	11	LDWWL	28 Dec Blackburn (H); 9 Jan Everton (A); 16 Jan Man Utd (H); 30 Jan Middlesbrough (A)			
12	Derby	18	24	+1	2	5	2	8	8	3	4	2	10	9	LWDDD	28 Dec Middlesbrough (H); 9 Jan Wimbledon (A); 16 Jan Tottenham (H); 30 Jan Sheff Wed (A)			
13	Tottenham	18	23	-5	4	3	2	15	15	2	2	5	8	13	WLWDL	28 Dec Everton (H); 9 Jan Sheff Wed (A); 16 Jan Wimbledon (H); 30 Jan Blackburn (A)			
14	Sheff Wed	18	22	+1	5	2	2	13	5	1	2	6	7	14	DLWWL	28 Dec Aston Villa (A); 5 Jan Tottenham (H); 16 Jan West Ham (A); 30 Jan Derby (H)			
15	Everton	18	22	-5	2	5	2	3	5	3	2	4	9	12	WWDWL	28 Dec Tottenham (H); 9 Jan Leicester (H); 16 Jan Aston Villa (H); 30 Jan Nottm Forest (A)			
16	Charlton	17	16	-5	2	3	2	13	8	1	4	5	9	19	DLLLL	28 Dec Arsenal (H); 9 Jan Southampton (A); 17 Jan Newcastle (H); 30 Jan Man Utd (A)			
17	Coventry	18	16	-11	2	3	3	10	11	1	1	7	5	15	LDLLL	28 Dec West Ham (A); 9 Jan Nottm Forest (H); 16 Jan Chelsea (A); 30 Jan Liverpool (H)			
18	Blackburn	18	14	-9	3	2	4	10	10	0	3	6	7	16	LWDDD	28 Dec Leicester (A); 9 Jan Leeds (H); 16 Jan Derby (A); 30 Jan Tottenham (H)			
19	Southampton	18	13	-20	2	2	5	12	18	1	2	6	3	17	WLLLL	28 Dec Nottm Forest (A); 9 Jan Charlton (H); 16 Jan Liverpool (A); 30 Jan Leeds (H)			
20	Nottm Forest	18	12	-15	1	5	3	8	11	1	1	7	9	21	LDLLL	28 Dec Southampton (H); 9 Jan Coventry (A); 16 Jan Arsenal (H); 30 Jan Everton (A)			

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE FIRST DIVISION

		Home										Away					5-game form		Upcoming matches
		Pl	Pts	GS	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Most recent on right				
1	Sunderland	24	33	53	9	2	1	29	6	6	6	0	24	9	WWWWWD	Reading Day: Karmann (A); 28 Dec Crewe (H); 9 Jan QPR (A); 17 Jan Ipswich (H).			
2	Ipswich	24	45	33	7	1	4	15	7	6	5	1	18	8	WDWLW	Reading Day: Portsmouth (H); 28 Dec Wolves (H); 9 Jan Barnsley (H); 17 Sunderland (A).			
3	Bradford City	23	40	42	7	2	2	26	12	5	2	5	16	15	LLWWWW	Reading Day: Bolton (A); 28 Dec Warrington (H); 9 Jan Stockport (A); 16 Jan Crewe (H).			
4	Watford	24	40	42	6	5	1	19	12	5	2	5	23	23	WDDWL	Reading Day: Bristol City (H); 28 Dec Norwich (A); 9 Jan Portsmouth (H); 16 Jan Wolves (A).			
5	Norwich	23	40	39	6	4	1	22	13	5	3	4	17	17	LLWDDW	Reading Day: QPR (A); 28 Dec Watford (H); 9 Jan Crewe (A); 16 Jan West Brom (H).			
6	Bolton	23	39	44	7	3	2	26	14	3	6	2	18	18	WWDDWW	Reading Day: Bradford (H); 28 Dec Port Vale (A); 9 Jan Crystal Palace (H); 16 Jan Sheffield Utd (H).			
7	Birmingham	24	38	37	5	5	2	19	10	6	1	5	20	14	LWLWLD	Reading Day: Sheff Utd (H); 28 Dec Bury (A); 9 Jan Port Vale (H); 16 Jan Barnsley (A).			
8	Huddersfield	24	38	35	8	3	1	23	12	3	2	7	12	28	WLWLWL	Reading Day: Grimsby (H); 28 Dec Sheff Utd (A); 9 Jan Bury (H); 16 Jan Portsmouth (A).			
9	Grimsby	24	38	30	7	4	1	20	9	4	1	7	10	18	WLWKKW	Reading Day: Huddersfield (A); 28 Dec Stockport (H); 9 Jan Wolves (A); 16 Jan Oxford Utd (H).			
10	West Brom	24	34	43	7	0	5	25	18	3	4	5	18	22	WLDDWL	Reading Day: Port Vale (H); 28 Dec Crystal Palace (A); 9 Jan Barnsley (H); 16 Jan Norwich (A).			
11	Sheffield Utd	24	34	37	6	3	3	20	19	3	4	5	17	21	WLLDL	Reading Day: Birmingham (A); 28 Dec Huddersfield (H); 9 Jan Swindon (A); 16 Jan Bolton (A).			
12	Wolves	24	34	34	6	5	1	19	11	3	2	7	15	15	WLDDL	Reading Day: Swindon (A); 28 Dec Ipswich (H); 9 Jan Warrane (A); 16 Jan Watford (H).			
13	Barnsley	24	30	35	4	4	4	22	17	3	5	4	13	16	WWDDWL	Reading Day: Stockport (A); 28 Dec QPR (H); 9 Jan West Brom (H); 16 Jan Barnsley (A).			
14	Crystal Palace	23	30	33	7	4	1	27	14	1	2	8	6	25	LDLDD	Reading Day: Oxford Utd (A); 28 Dec West Brom (H); 10 Jan Bolton (A); 16 Jan Stockport (H).			
15	Stockport	24	29	30	4	5	9	16	12	2	5	4	14	19	LWLWLW	Reading Day: Barnsley (H); 28 Dec Grimsby (A); 9 Jan Bradford (H); 16 Jan Crystal Palace (A).			
16	Bury	24	28	20	7	3	2	16	9	0	4	8	4	19	WLWLDL	Reading Day: Crewe (H); 28 Dec Birmingham (H); 9 Jan Huddersfield (A); 16 Jan QPR (H).			
17	Swindon	24	27	34	5	4	3	24	20	2	2	8	10	20	WLDDW	Reading Day: Wolves (H); 28 Dec Bristol City (H); 9 Jan Sheff Utd (H); 16 Jan Port Vale (A).			
18	Tranmere	24	27	31	2	5	5	14	17	3	7	2	17	18	DLDDW	Reading Day: Sunderland (A); 28 Dec Bradford (A); 16 Jan Grimsby (A); 30 Jan Crystal Palace (H).			
19	QPR	24	26	26	4	4	4	13	11	3	3	8	13	23	WDWDL	Reading Day: Norwich (H); 28 Dec Barnsley (A); 9 Jan Sunderland (H); 16 Jan Bury (A).			
20	Port Vale	25	27	5	1	6	12	20	2	3	7	15	25		LDLLW	Reading Day: West Brom (A); 28 Dec Bolton (H); 9 Jan Birmingham (A); 16 Jan Swindon (H).			
21	Portsmouth	24	24	32	5	2	5	18	14	1	4	7	14	25	WLWLL	Reading Day: Ipswich (H); 28 Dec Oxford Utd (H); 9 Jan Watford (A); 16 Jan Huddersfield (A).			
22	Oxford	24	23	26	4	3	5	18	20	2	2	8	8	25	WWLLL	Reading Day: Crystal Palace (H); 28 Dec Portsmouth (A); 9 Jan Bristol City (H); 16 Jan Grimsby (A).			
23	Bristol City	24	20	34	3	5	4	20	25	1	3	8	14	27	DLWDL	Reading Day: Watford (A); 28 Dec Swindon (H); 9 Jan Oxford Utd (A); 16 Jan Tranmere (H).			
24	Crewe	24	15	24	2	3	7	13	25	1	3	8	11	24	LLDWL	Reading Day: Bury (H); 28 Dec Sunderland (A); 9 Jan Norwich (H); 16 Jan Sheffield Utd (H).			

FOOTBALL RESULTS

[illegible]**TODAY'S FOOTBALL**

7.30 unless stated

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP
 Charlton v Aston Villa (8.0)
FA CARLSBERG VASE Third round
 Barnham v Oldbury (7.45); Bowers
 25 (7.45).
RYMAN LEAGUE Premier Division:
 Port v Sutton Utd, Pyma Cup Second round
 Barnham v Oldbury (7.45)
NORTH WESTERN FLOODS: Floodlit
 Twp First round second leg: At Heron C
 plays v Warrington Town.
WARRINGTON DIVISIONS New
 Castles v Shrewsbury (2.0) [v Newcastle
 Wv Club], Third Division: Wigan v Bury (2.0)
WARRINGTON GROUP Group Three: Barnsley v
 (7.0), Grimsby v Wigan, City of West
 (2.0) [v Altrincham FC].
AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION First
 round: Walsley v Bradford (2.0), L

Reds still a ghost of Christmas past

PALPITATIONS ON the bench and periods of anxious silence in the stands provided testimony that the Liverpool renaissance remains a fantasy for a Christmas yet to come.

But, for management and supporters alike, this humble offering will suffice as a Christmas present, warding off as it does the humiliation of the club's worst sequence in 44 years.

Gérard Houllier's repeated claims of grounds for optimism meet with growing scepticism on Merseyside, and the patience of the natives would surely have snapped after a ninth defeat in 12 games.

Instead they were served with a deserved if unspectacular victory. Liverpool sum-

BY DERICK ALLSOP

Liverpool 2
Sheffield Wednesday 0

moning enough quality from the archives in 15 vibrant and destructive first-half minutes to expose the frailty of Sheffield Wednesday's much vaunted resurgence.

That Liverpool then reverted to the sterile football which has characterised more recent times was confirmation that no seasonal miracle had been worked. A kind of balancing act had been accomplished. This latest evidence suggests that Liverpool are a slightly better than ordinary side, and Wednesday an ordinary one.

It all depends on your aspirations, of course. For Wednesday, "ordinary" represents no small achievement in the Premiership. At the start of the season, and only a few weeks ago, they were considered relegation fodder. Now they look likely to hold their own in the upper league.

Benito Carbone, all impish skills and elusive spins, brings the propensity for the unexpected, the rest supply dependable, functional stability. On another day Andy Booth might have headed them back into contention; on this day he looked like another willing but ordinary player.

The one man who might dance to Carbone's tune, of course, is his countryman

Paolo Di Canio, who is eligible for a return to active duty on Boxing Day but chose to make his way on to the missing persons file rather than Wednesday's training ground.

By common consent, Liverpool have been missing a dominant central defender for some considerable time, but on Saturday the back three coped relatively comfortably with Booth and generally managed to keep even Carbone at a safe distance.

They will meet distinctly more menacing attacking forces, and Steve Staunton in particular will not always be as fortunate as he was on this occasion. Wednesday were simply incapable of exploiting his now familiar lapses.

Although Paul Ince is a player of limited means, the midfielder is a resourceful and potent department when Jamie Redknapp steers its course, while Patrik Berger is an important source of goals. His right-foot blast which produced the opening for Liverpool was something of a collector's item.

Michael Owen effectively put the match beyond Wednesday with Liverpool's second, but this was a strangely fleeting performance by the 19-year-old, and the attack is still a tantalising conundrum for Houllier. Robbie Fowler, his other striker, had one of those afternoons that challenge your recollection of the swaggering youngster who scored goals and destroyed defences for fun.

He scuffed a first half chance and squandered two more in the second when he could have spared Houllier and Phil Thompson all that touch-line torture.

The restoration of a fully fit, committed and focused Steve McManaman - or a direct replacement if he is to leave - would give Liverpool another dimension that would also help to lift them above that sad, "slightly better than ordinary" category.

Their overall problem is their inability to sustain the intensity of their football through a full match - or even half a match.

Fifteen minute spells of explosive football are insufficient to see off better teams than

Wednesday and bring back some much missed fame and glory to Anfield.

Had Wednesday managed a goal in the second half the entire stadium would have been a bag of nerves. But as it is Houllier has a welcome breather. There will be more tests and perhaps more palpitations to endure in the weeks and months ahead.

Goals: Berger (18) 1-0; Owen (34) 2-0. Liverpool (3-5-2): James, Carragher, Staunton, Baze, Heggan (Kearney, 52), Redknapp, Ince, Berger, Barmby, Fowler, Owen (McGee, 67). Substitutes not used: Friedel (19), McManaman, Thompson. Sheffield Wednesday (4-4-2): Smickel, Atkinson, Thorne, Walker, Hanchiff, Almond, Anderson (Barnes, 58), Sonner, Jork, Radd (Hampshire, 65). Carbone, Booth, Substitutes not used: Clarke (19), Stefanovic, Haglund. Referee: A White (Chester-le-Street). Bookings: Liverpool: Barmby, Berger, Shaw. Sheffield Wednesday: Hanchiff. Man of the match: Redknapp. Attendance: 40,003.

Logic of Strachan hard to follow

BY LINDSAY HARRISON

Coventry City 1
Derby County 1

CALL THIS old fashioned, but surely the idea of substitutions, when the scores are level, is to produce a goal. So the reasoning of Gordon Strachan, when Coventry had been pegged back to 1-1, in leaving the country's second leading goalscorer on the bench for 88 minutes must remain hidden in managerial subterfuge.

Coventry City need goals. They also understand that place in the food chain that is football's natural hierarchy. So they sold the man now the Premiership's leading scorer for £5.75m (and next day Dion Dublin scored twice for Aston Villa); six weeks later they bought a 22-year-old, 17-goal marksman (and next day John Aloisi was named as substitute).

Fair play, no flaw in the argument thus far. But when relegation-threatened Coventry, to hand back their full time temporarily mislaid last season, have failed to capitalise on total first-half dominance against Derby players still musing over what to buy the wife for Christmas, then logic suggests that throwing on a youngster keen for success might be a handy tactic.

But when did logic have anything to do with football? Last week Jim Smith, the Derby manager, played three substitutes and saw one, his goal-hungry striker Dean Sturridge, grah an equaliser against Chelsea. This time he threw on a centre-back and a defensive midfielder and saw the latter, Lee Carsley, equalise Noel Whelan's first-half effort.

"Football's becoming more and more of a squad game and, fortunately, we've got a good squad," said Steve McClaren, the Derby coach. "John's not had much time with us," said Strachan. "But his time will come," and recalled how, last January, when leading at Chelsea, he brought on a fourth striker in giving Viorol Moldovan his debut. "I got my fingers burned," said Strachan. "We went from 1-0 up to 3-1 down."

Maybe fortune favours the brave. Certainly Strachan threw down the gauntlet to his first-choice forwards in hiving Aloisi from Portsmouth for £650,000 and he has a longer-term view than one Midlands derby. Whelan responded well, looking sharp from the off, snapping up his sixth goal of the season when Mart Poom could only parry Steve Froggatt's 17th-minute shot. But when he fired over the bar when well-placed two minutes into first-half injury time, Derby appreciated their reprieve.

Smith clearly has the golden touch with substitutions. He asked the left wing-back Rory Delap to play as an inside-forward and, assisted by the striker who did survive the half-time chop, Paolo Wanchop, it was the former Carlisle midfielder who centred for Carsley to score on the turn. It was the Republic of Ireland international's first goal for 15 months. But, then, Derby clearly know how to make their substitutions pay.

Goals: Whelan (17) 1-0; Carsley (50) 1-1. Coventry City (4-4-2): Hedman, Sturridge, Shaw, Williams, Edwards (Green, 73), Telford (Shaw, 68). Substitutes not used: McGee, Barmby, Hanchiff, Almond, Anderson (Barnes, 58), Sonner, Jork, Radd (Hampshire, 65). Carbone, Booth, Substitutes not used: Clarke (19), Stefanovic, Haglund. Referee: G Poll (Ming). Sending-off: Tottenham: Armstrong. Bookings: Chelsea: Duberry, Babayaro, Vull, Tottenham: Armstrong, Ferdinand, Carr. Man of the match: Petrescu. Attendance: 34,881.

Chelsea at home with the top spot

THE LAST time Chelsea topped the League, in November 1989, the team included Kevin Wilson, Alan Dickens, Ken Monkou, Dave Beasant and David Lee. John Burnstead was the regular substitute. Few took their challenge seriously and the doubters were quickly justified as Chelsea took two points from the next five games, conceding 16 goals in the process.

The Chelsea team that reached the Premiership's apex with a 2-0 win at Stamford Bridge on Saturday included Gianfranco Zola, Frank Leboeuf, Gianluca Vialli, Gus Poyet and Dan Petrescu. Tore Andre Flo was on the bench. This time the challenge is being taken very seriously indeed.

Listen to the experts, and not just the bookies who have marked them down as favourites. George Graham, twice a championship winner - once as a player, twice as a manager - confirmed: "They have the credentials to stay there. They have a lot of talent but that's been there for a couple of years. This year they have consistency and they can handle the physical side of it. The squad is formidable and they are more together as a unit."

That said, Graham felt his Tottenham side would have taken a point had it not been for the dismissal of Chris Armstrong an hour into a fractious match. He may be right, and they resisted stoutly with 10, but it is through winning such matches that championships are claimed.

As Graham said, it is not just that the players who, with due respect to Ted Drake's champions of 1954-55, are probably the best squad in Chelsea's history, it is their attitude. In the past talented Chelsea sides have been fragile under pressure, either buckling in the face of a physical challenge or



GLENN MOORE

more recently, losing their heads and kicking out. Not this team (though the absence of both Dennis Wise and Graeme Le Saux may have helped).

They competed physically with Spurs and stayed cool mentally, continuing to play patient football even after 20 fruitless minutes attacking Spurs' 10 men.

As important as turning draws into wins is their success this year in turning defeats into draws - as illustrated at Old Trafford in midweek. Having lost far too many matches last season they remain unbeaten this, ever since that opening day defeat at Coventry.

This is in part due to the fitness programme instigated by Vialli under the expert eye of Antonio Pintus, his former conditioning coach at Juventus.

"We are better than the opposition in the last 15 minutes because we work really hard in the week," said Vialli. "If you do that you get reward."

Then there is the depth. As well as Wise (suspended) and Le Saux (injured) Chelsea were also missing long-term casualties Pierluigi Casiraghi and Eddie Newton, and the less seriously injured Marcel Desailly and Roberto Di Matteo. And they still had Flo on the bench.

Depth aids consistency, which Graham picked out as



All arms and legs, as Frank Leboeuf challenges Tottenham's Ferdinand during Chelsea's impressive home win

ALLSOP

the most important ingredient in the championship mix. Experience is similarly crucial: Alex Ferguson is fond of reflecting that a team has to lose a championship before they can win it, as his own Manchester United team and Blackburn found.

This ought not apply to Chelsea. It may be more than 40 years since the championship trophy resided at Stamford Bridge but the players know all about winning titles. Between them they could put on quite a display of championship medals with Ed de Goey, Albert Ferrer, Celestine Babyaro, Petrescu, Zola, Di

Matteo, Vialli, Desailly and Le Saux possessing examples spanning seven countries. Most pertinently three of them have been won in Serie A, and Le Saux did so in England.

As Vialli noted, their knowledge will prove crucial in the coming months: "This gives us all confidence, but teams will play harder against us now so life will be more difficult in the future. But we should be able to cope with it as we have experienced players in the side who are used to staying at the top. I am curious as to how we will react but confident."

Chelsea are generally accepted as the best footballing

team in the Premiership and their passing, control and movement can be exceptional. This only occurred in patches on Saturday with several players, notably Vialli and Zola, hellow par. However, Petrescu, whose physical commitment seems to have increased immensely since his place became uncertain, was in fine form and Poyet as impressive as ever.

As he grows in influence, the Uruguayan could do for Chelsea what Emmanuel Petit did for Arsenal last year. His 80th-minute goal, scored off the post after Vialli had flicked on Babayaro's pass, was his

10th of the season and, said Vialli: "He is the complete mid-field player. He is one of the most clever players I have played with."

"He scores goals, his runs are clever, his passes precise, he works very hard for the team and has an unbelievable attitude. He is always positive, a player managers always want in the squad."

Ten minutes later Vialli won possession in midfield and Petrescu was already racing down the right as Leboeuf launched the ball forward. Flo tucked in the Romanian's cross and the blue flag took flight on top of the Premiership. The team then ad-

joined to Di Matteo's latest restaurant venture.

Aston Villa can hedge them from the summit at Charlton tonight but it would be a huge surprise if Chelsea do not regain it between now and May.

Goals: Poyet (80) 1-0; Flo (90) 2-0. Chelsea (4-4-2): De Goey, Ferrer, Duberry, Leboeuf, Lamboude (Goldson, 90); Petrescu, Morris, Poyet, Babayaro; Vialli, Zola (Flo, 71). Substitutes not used: Hanchiff (19), Terry, Nicholas. Tottenham Hotspur (4-4-2): Walker, Carr, Young, Campbell, Sutton (Edinburgh, 74); For (Allen, 83), Anderson, Nielsen, Givola (Clemence, 65), Armstrong, Ferdinand. Substitutes not used: Calderwood, Bardsley (19). Referee: G Poll (Ming). Sending-off: Tottenham: Armstrong. Bookings: Chelsea: Duberry, Babayaro, Vull, Tottenham: Armstrong, Ferdinand, Carr. Man of the match: Petrescu. Attendance: 34,881.

Glass shines but jewellery hidden

BY SIMON TURNBULL

Newcastle United 1
Leicester City 0

IN YEARS to come, they may well be asking in the pubs and clubs of Tyneside: whatever happened to the unlikely lads? Big Dunc and the not quite so big Al may yet emerge as the Terry and Bob of the new millennium in Newcastle. But Andreas Andersson and Temur Ketsbaia could only be described as a striking partnership in one respect. A more strikingly indifferent pairing would be difficult to imagine.

Rund Gullit might have ventured that the mop-topped Swede and the polished-pated Georgian both "played well" at St James' Park on Saturday. But then Newcastle's manager also suggested that "every club should have a Warren Barton".

Ketsbaia, it must be said, is simply an erratic variation on the theme of footballing enigmas. He is just as liable to score the goal of the season as fall flat on his face in front of goal.

Andersson is just... well, just dreadful. The Toon Army over-

cheered when he stayed down injured after attempting to tackle Neil Lennon, then jeered when Gullit decided to keep him on and withdraw Ketsbaia instead to accommodate Shearer's return as a substitute 10 minutes into the second half.

Not everybody on the Tyne is against the Swede, however. Defender Steve Howey was quick to defend his colleague. "You can hear the crowd getting their point across that they're not quite happy with Andreas, and the boys feel a little bit sorry for him because sometimes he might lack a little bit of confidence," he admitted.

"But you watch him when he plays for Sweden and he's a totally different player. I think all he needs is maybe a good run in the team and a couple of goals and people will see the best of him. I think he knows the fans are expressing their dis-

appointment at times, but he digs in and works his socks off." It is just as well for Newcastle that Shearer survived a crunching challenge from Matt Elliott with only minor cuts, and that the flu-ridden Ferguson is expected to be out of his sick bed before Leeds come on Boxing Day. By then the Magpies might even have a new man on their wings to feed their cross-craving target man and their goal-hungry poacher-in-chief.

Tharbin Ba was nowhere to be seen on Saturday, sheepishly delaying his proposed £5.25m transfer from Milan. It had once cost Newcastle £5.1m less to secure the services of the wide boy who is, according to the Carling Opta statistics, top of the Premiership's crosses.

But Kevin Keegan chose to give Steve Guppy just 20 minutes of first-team action before selling him on to Port Vale. Defensive duties and a dearth of possession meant Guppy did not bear many crosses on his return to Tyneside. Leicester, in fact, only fashioned

one chance of note and Emile Heskey fluffed it, dragging his shot across the face of Shay Given's goal and wide when Frank Sinclair put him clear on the half hour.

Newcastle were not much better, though Stephen Glass had a smashing opening game to warrant the match-winning reward of his side-footed goal from the left edge of the Leicester penalty area 20 minutes into the second half.

The young Scot is not so much a winger as a midfielder with a sense of forward direction. This Saturday he will renew his acquaintance with David Batty, who, according to the Talk of the Toon, passed his recent medical sideways.

Goals: Glass (55) 1-0. Newcastle United (4-4-2): Given, Charvet, Dobson, Howey, Barton, Georgiadis, Lee, Speed, Glass, Anderson, Ketsbaia (Shearer, 55). Substitutes not used: Hammann, Hughes, Solano, Harper (19). Leicester City (4-4-2): Ketter, Sinclair (Kearney, 62), Elliott, Baggart, Liddlestone (Irby, 19), Carr, (Barnes, 48), Guppy, Collier (Ferguson, 66). Substitutes not used: Zaporozh, Arphand (19). Referee: J Winter (Ingham). Bookings: Leicester: Elliott. Man of the match: Glass. Attendance: 35,718.

Saints do themselves good turn

BY PETER CONCHIE

Southampton 3
Wimbledon 1

TOWARDS SIX o'clock on Saturday afternoon weary shoppers carrying bags and boxes trudged past The Dell along Hill Lane, the road which rises gently out of Southampton city centre.

This festive ritual was mirrored by the town's football team who themselves climbed a mountain of sorts to deliver a pre-Christmas gift to their deserving fans with a win over Wimbledon.

It took Southampton off the bottom of the table and gives them renewed hope for a season which they appeared to be on the point of abandoning as a bad job.

It was hard to watch Wimbledon's tame performance and not conclude that they had underestimated Southampton. "Well, we're just human aren't we, not machines," Joe Kinnear remarked. "We don't want to take anything away from Southampton. We came here 16 points ahead of them but didn't play like a team 16 points ahead of them."

Doubleless they were also suffering from a shortage of adrenalin after Sunday's heroic exploits, against Liverpool the Wimbledon players had stormed their opponents' defence like a band of anarchic revolutionaries. In contrast, on Saturday they formed a loose collective with neither direction nor conviction.

From the kick-off Southampton played in a direct and purposeful fashion with the 20-year-old James Beattie, signed from Blackburn for £1m, in threatening form.

Within five minutes the home side would have been ahead were it not for fine goal-keeping from Neil Sullivan. Matthew Le Tissier's cross was headed down by the Moroccan Hassan Kachoul and then Beattie again.

After almost a dozen min-

utes of Southampton pressure, Egil Olsenstad opened the scoring, Beattie flicking on a goal-kick from which the Norwegian rounded Sullivan and defender Chris Perry before finishing well from a narrow angle.

Beattie then attempted a duplicate finish from Le Tissier's ball but struck the post from a slightly wider position.

Importantly the home side kept their heads when they were allowed to was due in part to Wimbledon, who gave an uncharacteristically passive display and also thanks to solid performances from England internationals Le Tissier and Carlton Palmer.

Returning from suspension, Palmer's workhorse consistency settled his young teammates' nerves as he ferried the ball from defence to attack along the right side of midfield. Simple stuff, perhaps, but it was exactly what Southampton needed and underpinned their game throughout.

In four second-half minutes the game was won. Kachoul, left unmarked between Perry and substitute Ceri Hughes, glanced a diving header past Sullivan from Le Tissier's cross.

Beattie then headed onto the post and Kachoul backbeeled across to Olsenstad, who thumped in his second goal of the afternoon.

"In the Premiership anybody can beat anybody," Dave Jones remarked afterwards. Chelsea, who pay a visit to the south coast on Boxing Day, will be the next team to test this hypothesis after a strange and glorious weekend in the Premiership.

Goals: Olsenstad (11) 1-0; Kachoul (54) 2-0; Olsenstad (59) 3-0. Southampton (4-4-2): Jones, Hiley, Moor, Lushington, Bridge, Kachoul, Palmer, Hughes, Le Tissier (Basham, 75), Cornwell, Beattie. Substitutes not used: Warner, Williams, Paul, Serrangard (19). Wimbledon (4-4-2): Sullivan, Cunningham, Perry, Blackwell, Thatcher, Eadie, M Hughes, Arbery (Carr, 78), Roberts (C Hughes, 61), Gayle, Shoku (Marney, 83). Substitutes not used: Nimble, Baber (19). Referee: M Reed (Birmingham). Bookings: Southampton: Kachoul, Wimbledon: Perry, Thatcher. Man of the match: Beattie. Attendance: 14,354.

Rio grand, but can the Hammers hold him?

COOL, STRONG, good in the air, comfortable on the ball, just 20 years old; no wonder Rio Ferdinand is spoken of as a fixture in England's defence for the next decade, the natural successor to West Ham's supreme hero, Bobby Moore.

Moore spent most of his career at Upton Park, international achievement bolstering his preference for familiar surroundings at a time when there was no great profit in switching allegiance.

Times change. "Who knows," Harry Redknapp replied reflectively when recent speculation about Ferdinand's future was put to him. "What we're trying to do is make the



KEN JONES

progress that will keep Rio and other young players who are coming through happy."

Ferdinand's performances may be doing wonders for Redknapp's peace of mind - "I sleep easier just knowing he's

in the team," - but West Ham's manager must live with the possibility of losing him. "The way things are in football now it is difficult to keep a player when he can double, even treble his wages by going to a club that has a good chance of winning the championship."

If common sense prevails, Redknapp lives in hope that an extension of the improvement sustained since the relegation worries of two seasons ago will endear Ferdinand to the club he has grown up with. Now sixth in the Premiership after a seventh place finish last term, their realistic target is a crack at European competition. At the risk of going over-

board about a player who still has things to learn - a mistake that could hinder Michael Owen's progress - Ferdinand looks made for it.

The most glowing tribute comes from his French teammate Marcel Desailly and Lillian Thurman of his country's World Cup winning team. "Marc says that Rio will be in a different class to both of them," Redknapp added.

More than any other factor, Ferdinand's assurance under pressure enables Redknapp to risk the perils of momentum that allows the opposition room for retaliatory manoeuvre.

Saturday's 2-1 defeat of Everton clearly emphasised West Ham's ability to break. Everton were not so much transformed in the second half as realising the possibilities arising from the Hammer's eagerness to get forward.

"It became end to end stuff. We were running past each other in midfield," Redknapp added.

Behind in the 19th minute when Keller's attempted centre found their net after looping over Thomas Myrhe and striking the far post, Everton drew level when Danny Cadamarteri forced home a low centre from the substitute Nick Barry.

Everton, however, were unable to consolidate, their goal falling again almost immediately when Trevor Sinclair launched himself at Keller's cross to head the winner.

Not that the game's fluctuations were over. Chances came at both ends and on another day Ian Wright, who foolishly got himself a mention in the referee's report for booting the ball out of play, might have been on a hat trick.

A battle of wills in midfield between Eyal Berkovic and his shadow, Olivier Dacourt, briefly went the Everton man's way when he began to spring forward, but it swung again in an exciting finale.

Not in the least troubled when he is left without frontal protection - shades of the best defender ever to wear England's colours - Ferdinand dealt calmly with crises that arose from Cadamarteri's eager surges.

Even so, West Ham almost paid for their profligate finishing when conceding a free-kick from 20 yards in the last minute.

Dacourt struck it well but Shaka Hislop, adding to the good impression he has made since arriving on a free transfer from Newcastle, turned the ball for a corner.

Walter Smith offered no excuses for a defeat that ended

Everton's mini revival. "We didn't perform in the first half and after getting back into the game we threw it away with bad defending," he said.

Honours in that department went to the player whose ability causes Redknapp to drool. "Frightening," he said.

Goals: Keller (19), 1-0; Cadamarteri (71) 1-1; Sinclair (73) 2-1.

West Ham (3-5-2): Hislop; Pearce, Ferdinand, Dicks, Sinclair, Lomas, Berkovic, Lampard, Keller; Harrison, Wright. Substitutes not used: Forest (3-5-2): Myrhe, Blic, Marozzi, Unsworth, Ward (Colins, 75), Grant (Barry, 64), Dacourt, Hurst, Nelson. Substitutes not used: Simonsen (3-5-2): Farley.

Bookings: West Ham: Lomas, Wright, Everton: Dacourt, Hinchon, Blic, Cadamarteri.

Referee: R Harris (Oxford)

Man of the match: Ferdinand

Attendance: 25,998

Boro expose United plan to dominate

THE TITANIC was a real life disaster of recent memory, rather than a film, the last time Middlesbrough succeeded at Old Trafford. Their 3-0 victory in January 1990 came in a month of cataclysmic proportions for Manchester United, who also lost at home to Swindon Town of the Third Division South in the FA Cup.

No one expects a spell of similar upsets, or do we? On a day of reunions, one was notable for its absence: Manchester United's increasingly distant touch with defensive solidarity. Much more of this and ambitions, at home and abroad, will come to nothing.

Twenty-one goals have been conceded in their last 10 matches and, but for their qualification for the knockout phase of the European Cup, the last few weeks would have been no more than a humiliating mediocrity. The entertainment is glorious, it is just the results that are problem. They have won only once since November 14.

Forget the rousing finale and treat the scoreline as an impostor because, for an hour, supposedly the best team in England were overwhelmed by outplayed, Middlesbrough were splendid, United simply - not.

Nowhere was the contrast more exposed than in the home penalty area, where Hamilton Ricard and Brian Deane reduced Gary Neville and Ronny Johnsen to rubble. "Individual errors," was Jim Ryan's succinct assessment, before adding enigmatically: "It is a worry. We will have to address it again."

The fact that Ryan, the reserve team coach, was addressing the media was one symptom of the mitigating circumstances that could be paraded in defence of the

defence. Jaap Stam was missing with an ankle injury but, more importantly, Alex Ferguson was absent because of a family bereavement.

You can only imagine the volcanic activity on the touchline if the United manager had been present as Middlesbrough went 3-0 up with goals from Ricard, Dean Gordon and Deane. But it was his selection that performed so badly, so perhaps little would have changed. Just the language in the dressing-room.

It was not hard to find paradoxes. Former United players Bryan Robson and Viv Anderson were directing operations from the visiting bench while Gary Pallister who was a huge, mobile obstacle at Old Trafford for nine seasons, was magnificent in the Middlesbrough defence.

"I think he should still be playing for England," Robson said of Pallister and, while some might raise eyebrows at that, the giant centre-back could certainly be enrolled into the nation's diplomatic service, given his comments about United's wretched defending.

"They've had a few injuries," he said, "they've never really had a settled back four, and that always causes problems. Steve (Bruce) and myself found out we were all over the place when we weren't playing regularly. If you can't get a settled partnership, it's difficult. Obviously they want to get their two best players at the back and have a partnership which will last as long as possible."

On the assumption there was no defence, Ryan abandoned it altogether in a death-or-glory charge at the finish

and it almost yielded a point. Ole Gunnar Solskjaer came on for Phil Neville and, more contentiously, Paul Scholes replaced David Beckham.

The England midfielder had redeemed an undistinguished performance that culminated in a booking after an ugly lunge at Ricard with a cross that led to Nicky Butt's goal.

And he followed that up with a similar arc of precision that Ryan Giggs ought to have headed in. But Ryan was fearful that the short fuse was burning, and, when he looked for a way to introduce Scholes, Beckham was an obvious choice.

The change almost had the required effect, too, because Scholes made the score 3-2 after 70 minutes and was to the fore in the mayhem that caused Mark Schwarzer to clear straight to Andy Cole with four minutes remaining.

The United striker's shot was partially blocked by the Boro goalkeeper but was still heading for goal when Steve Vickers cleared it over his own bar.

Boro survived and their supporters could conclude the match by singing "We're going to win the League". They will not, their squad is too shallow, but on this evidence neither will United, whose last clean sheet was on November 6.

Urgent action is required.

Goals: Ricard (23) 0-1; Gordon (31) 0-2; Deane (59) 0-3; Butt (62) 1-3; Scholes (70) 2-3.

Manchester United (4-4-2): Schmeichel; P. Neville, Solskjaer, 78; Johnsen, G. Neville, Irving, Beckham (Scholes, 63), Keane, Butt, Giggs; Sheringham, Cole. Substitutes not used: Blomqvist, Brown, Van der Gouw (3).

Middlesbrough (3-5-2): Schwarzer; Cooper, Vickers, Pallister, Fosu, Mustoe (Moore, 71), Maddison (Beck, 82), Townsend, Gordon; Deane, Ricard. Substitutes not used: Blackburn, Strickland, Rothery (3).

Referee: G Willard (Worcester).

Bookings: Manchester United: Beckham; Middlesbrough: Fosu.

Man of the match: Ricard.

Attendance: 55,152.



Gary Pallister gives Teddy Sheringham a blast from the past Chris Gleave

Forest's currency devalued

POOR FOREST. They fight against the current, but in time the tide will surely sweep them away. The Nationwide League can dust off the welcome mat. Forest are on their way back.

They gave a gutsy performance on Saturday but in the end fortune did not look kindly on them. Two goals up at half-time, they allowed Blackburn back early in the second half, and just when they thought a 14-match run without victory was over, cracked again three minutes into stoppage time.

Thanks to Southampton's success, Forest are bottom of the table for Christmas, a position from which teams rarely recover. Worse still, they have no money for the January sales.

Ultimately, that is what it comes down to: spending power, an area in which Blackburn are enviable placed. Last week, their owner, Jack Walker, sanctioned the £2.5m purchase of Keith Gillespie from Newcastle and, it is reported, authorised the club's new manager, Brian Kidd, to go to £5m in his attempt to prise Ashley Ward from Barnsley. It makes a stark contrast with the Forest manager, Dave Bassett, who knows it is pointless even to look on the same shelf.

For the Forest supporters who saw their future sold to the City two years ago, it is all a painful let-down. When the consortium financed by Nigel Wray and Irving Scholar won control, turning the old committee-run club with its £1 shareholders into a go-ahead plc, those supporters envisaged prosperity, not the poor house.

But Wray and company say their investment is spent. They have put in £18m, of which £8m-£7m amounts to Bassett's net transfer deficit. A chunk went to pay off inherited debts, which puts Forest on a sound financial footing but does nothing in the currency that supporters regard as crucial - League points.

At the club's annual meeting last month, Wray, investor and property developer, showed he

will not draw on his large personal fortune to save Forest from the drop. And the bank, he says, is equally unwilling.

It is not something Walker would tell an agn. But this is the trouble with football clubs run by a plc, especially one involving men in the City. Walker loves Blackburn. What does Wray feel for Forest?

They scrapped as Bassett's sides can on Saturday. But that alone will not be enough. They coped without Pierre van Hooijdonk, out with a sore calf, but could not withstand relentless Blackburn pressure through much of the second half.

That apart, you could fault them for nothing. Neil Shipperley and Dougie Freedman fought for every ball. Steve Stowe was tireless and the others in midfield all put in their maximum. At the back, Jesper Mattson, for whom Bassett paid £200,000 to Halmstad of Sweden, caught the mood with a commanding display.

Forest went ahead from a contentious penalty; and increased the lead through Freedman's seventh goal of the season, created by Shipperley. But Blackburn, tentative at first, inevitably came back, although Wray was unlucky, having been within touching distance of their first Premiership win since 29 August.

One more match without a win and Forest will equal a club record. Next up: Manchester United, away.

Goals: Chettle (pen 22) 1-0; Freedman (30) 2-0; Blake (48) 2-1; Blake (50) 2-2.

Blackburn (4-4-2): Bessant; Hjelde, Mattson, Chettle, Rogers (Armstrong, 68); Stone, Johnson, Gerrard, Bartlett (34), Bonal, Darchav. Substitutes not used: Cross (34), Bonal, Darchav.

Blackburn Rovers (4-4-2): Plant; Kenna, Henchoz, Dally, Davidson; Gillespie (Johnson, 78), Sherwood, McKnight, Wilson (Duff, 88); Sutton, Blake. Substitutes not used: Davies, Peacock, Fettes (34).

Referee: S Lodge (Barnsley).

Bookings: Forest: Bessant, Bart-Williams; Blackburn: McKnight, Henchoz, Sutton, Gillespie.

Man of the match: Shipperley.

Attendance: 22,013.

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Game Results 19/12/98.
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COVENTRY	V	QPR	121 LUCKY WINNERS
NOTT'M F	V	BLACKBURN	THIS WEEK
CRYSTAL P	V	QPR	EACH SCOOP OVER
HESTERFIELD	V	WIGAN	\$1,500
READING	V	OLDHAM	

*Matchmaker Adjudicated Results for postponed matches

Home wins (0): NONE
Away wins (0): NONE
No score draws (0): NONE
Score draws (0): NONE

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THIS WEEK'S MAJOR FIXTURES

TODAY
FOOTBALL: See panel, page 25
RACING (National Hunt unless stated): Kato (First race 12.55); UINGFIELD (All Weather Flat) (1.10).

TOMORROW
FOOTBALL (7.45 unless stated): Aston Villa v Sheffield Wednesday; Arsenal v West Ham; Blackburn v Aston Villa; Charlton v Reading; Derby v Manchester United; Everton v Liverpool; Fulham v Tottenham; Ipswich v Norwich; Leicester v Sheffield Wednesday; Luton v Reading; Manchester United v Blackburn; Newcastle v Leeds; Sheffield Wednesday v Leicester; Southampton v Chelsea; Sunderland v Wimbledon; Tottenham v Manchester United; Wimbledon v Chelsea; Wolves v Sunderland; Wigan v Bristol City; Wolverhampton v Reading; York City v Barnsley.

WEDNESDAY
RUGBY UNION: Cheltenham and Gloucester Cup first round second leg: Oxford v Sale (7.15).

BOXING DAY
FOOTBALL (3.0 unless stated): FA Cup: Reading v Arsenal; Arsenal v West Ham; Blackburn v Aston Villa; Charlton v Reading; Derby v Manchester United; Everton v Liverpool; Fulham v Tottenham; Ipswich v Norwich; Leicester v Sheffield Wednesday; Luton v Reading; Manchester United v Blackburn; Newcastle v Leeds; Sheffield Wednesday v Leicester; Southampton v Chelsea; Sunderland v Wimbledon; Tottenham v Manchester United; Wimbledon v Chelsea; Wolves v Sunderland; Wigan v Bristol City; Wolverhampton v Reading; York City v Barnsley.

TODAY'S NUMBER
0
The number of Chinese athletes who failed drugs tests at the Asian Games, which finished in Bangkok yesterday. They had 11 failures at the last Games in Hiroshima in 1994.

TOMORROW
WHO SAID 'IF I HAD A SWORD I'D CUT OFF HIS HEAD'?
FIND OUT IN THE SPORTS QUOTES OF THE YEAR

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HAMMERS NEWS MAGAZINE

THANK LAMPARD FOR MY FUTURE

WRIGHT

SPORT

TIPSTER EDMONDSON DOES IT AGAIN P23 • THE WORLD CUP DISCARDS P20

Football: The 17th dismissal since Wenger took charge mars Gunners' advance into title contention
Arsenal's assault on summit

BY STEVE TONGUE

Arsenal 3
Leeds United 1

ARSENAL yesterday offered an alternative view to their own manager's recent pessimistic prognostications by defeating the Premiership's form team and joining them in the top six.

A year to the week after his charges began an unbeaten run from a less promising position than their current one, which lasted four months and earned them the championship, Arsène Wenger has been casting doubts on their chances of finishing in the top three to earn another shot at the Champions' League. As David O'Leary, unlucky to lose by two goals on his return to Highbury for the first time as a fully fledged manager, put it: "Perhaps he's superstitious and has to say the same thing every year. He's very good with words."

Whether or not Wenger and his fellow countrymen know the word idology, they are learning to practise it. The knack of remaining on the right side of English referees is proving more elusive, yesterday Gilles Grimandi became the fifth Arsenal player sent off this season - and the 17th since Wenger took over two years ago - when he pushed his head into Alan Smith's face only 15 minutes after coming on as a substitute.

By that time, just before the finish, Arsenal were in control for the first time. Even at 2-0 early in the second half, they looked vulnerable to Lee Bowyer's vigorous industry and the fierce shooting of Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink, who quickly halved the deficit. Only when Dennis Bergkamp, having scored the first goal, had contributed his second assist of the game by sending the outstanding Emmanuel Petit through were the champions in the clear.

They have now moved within four points of the joint leaders, Aston Villa, who play at Charlton tonight. Arsenal also visit The Valley next week, after entertaining West Ham, and a successful Christmas in the capital would set them up for a happy new year.

"It's more important at the moment that we concentrate on the way we play before speaking of the title," Wenger said. "We have to be realistic. After a few games, we'll see where we stand."

He admitted to being con-



Dennis Bergkamp scores Arsenal's first goal in their defeat of Leeds United at Highbury yesterday. The two teams are now equal on points

Ben Duffy

cerned early on at the way Bowyer and David Hopkin were man-marking Petit and Patrick Vieira in the centre of midfield, describing Bowyer as "a specialist at upsetting people". Although no player on the pitch was old enough to remember the physical battles between the two clubs 30 years ago, there seemed to be some keen to reenact them: Vieira had downed Hasselbaink painfully within 20 seconds and the young Leeds

defender Jonathan Woodgate was booked before two minutes had been played.

Woodgate was used as one of three centre-halfs as O'Leary changed his system to compensate for the loss of Lucas Radebe and David Batty. "I'd love to have come here with the full monty, a full team," he said. Those who were chosen sometimes seemed to be doing their own choreography of a move more associated with Arsenal,

stepping out in a straight line with arms raised.

It let them down for two of the three goals, starting in the 28th minute. David Hopkin had just side-footed feebly wide at the other end when Petit found Nicolas Anelka for a flicked header. Anelka was probably just offside, but the flag, unlike the defenders' arms, stayed down and Bergkamp ran on to beat Nigel Martyn. Cleverly drifting slightly

deeper to elude the markers, Bergkamp went on to give his most influential performance for a while. Eight minutes into the second half he fed Vieira, who slid past Woodgate and scored his first goal of the season, low in the corner.

Leeds deserved better and Hasselbaink thundered them back into contention as Harry Kewell rolled back an inviting pass following another thrust by Bowyer. But as the game became

even more open, Arsenal finished the stronger. Marc Overmars side-footed straight at Martyn and Anelka pulled a shot wide before Nelson Vivas set up a classic counter-attack by winning the ball and feeding it to Bergkamp on the left. A delicious pass was met by Petit's fine finish, reminiscent of his *coup de grâce* in the World Cup final.

"They'll be there at the finish, don't worry about that," said O'Leary of his former club. His

new one may be slightly further away, but if they keep improving, not by much.

Goal scorers: Bergkamp (28), 1-0; Vieira (53) 2-0; Hasselbaink (58) 2-1; Petit (62) 3-1. **Arsenal (4-4-2):** Manninger; Dorr, Bould, Nelson, Vivas; Limberg, Grimandi, 72, Vieira, Petit, Overmars (60), 57, Bergkamp, Anelka. **Substitutes not used:** Bow, Mann, Moller, Dade. **Leeds United (3-5-2):** Martyn; Hasselbaink, Moller, Radebe, 44, Woodgate; Hopkin, Bowyer, Hopkin, Grimandi, Smith, 80, Harte, Lewis, Hasselbaink, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100. **Referee:** P. Dunn (Preston). **Send-off:** Arsenal Grimandi, 72; Leeds Woodgate, 80. **Man of the match:** Petit. **Attendance:** 38,025.

Kelly: 'I acted in interest of FA'

BY DAVID ANDERSON

GRAHAM KELLY, the former Football Association chief executive, stands by his decision to give the FA of Wales the £3.2m grant which cost him his job. Kelly insists he acted in the best interests of the FA and the campaign to stage the 2006 World Cup.

He admits that one reason for helping the FAW was to secure their support for the bid of the FA chairman, Keith Wiseman, to be Britain's Fifa vice-president, but claimed it was not a bribe.

"I went into it with very good intentions to seek to strengthen England's position in world football generally and in connection with the World Cup campaign," he told BBC Radio Five Live.

Wiseman, himself in peril after the FA's executive committee passed a vote of no confidence in him for his part in the affair, has claimed that leading figures in the game wanted Kelly out.

"Several people had been after Graham for some time," he alleged. "I'm not going to name names but various individuals at the top of the professional game wanted someone in place prepared to act as they wanted."

In spite of the vote of no confidence, Wiseman has refused to go and has instead vowed to fight to clear his name. His fate will be decided by the full FA Council when it meets on 4 January.

"As for myself I have done nothing wrong," Wiseman said. "I was acting in the FA's best interests and following accepted business practice and I want to clear my name of any hint of impropriety."

"The process followed to remove me was unconstitutional. The full FA council is the only body that has the right to remove the chairman. I intend to put the matter entirely in their hands," he added.

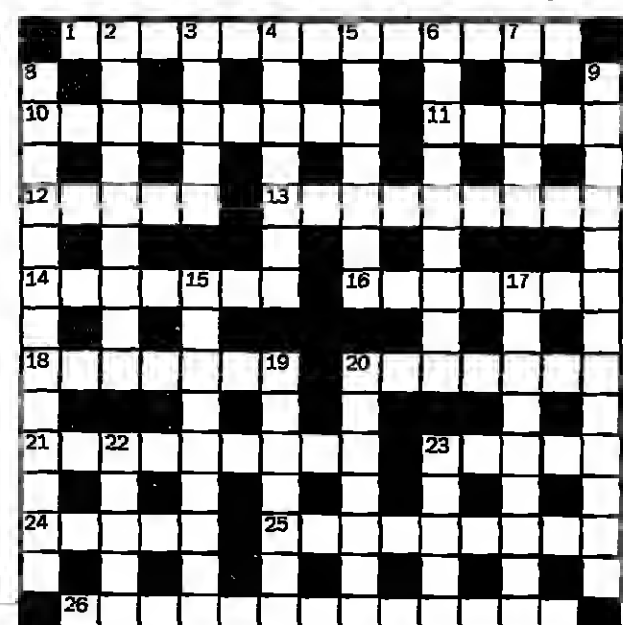
Wiseman admitted that recent events had been a huge strain. "The past few days have been horrendous for my wife and family," he said.

"I haven't been able to live in my own house and have been staying with friends. I've never had the remotest professional problem of any kind and to have that reputation put at risk by football issues is difficult to cope with."

THE MONDAY CROSSWORD

No.3799 Monday 21 December

by Esau



- ACROSS**
- Route for Brits in NY area? Sent method to follow it (6,7)
 - Should one beam at speeding motorists? (5,4)
 - Chap going by main road doing U-turn... form of insanity (5)
 - Sally's fighting to keep hold of love (5)
 - Subject to excessive demands, that's clear-cut (9)
 - One graduate pal seen in
 - Muslim leader's office (7)
 - Runner with promise recalled venue of failures (4,3)
 - Old laundry facility going west - however, Henry noticed (7)
 - Become breathless, taking in "mature" kind of show! (7)
 - I may mend comfy chairs for a convalescent (9)
 - 8's responsibility (among others) said to be

- DOWN**
- Road subject to favourable result of test (9)
 - Living in the distant past, like some peers? (5)
 - A certain Carol's main man given spiritual guidance (7)
 - What reporter may claim to have profound effect (7)
 - Thwart poor actors attempting to shed years (9)
 - Takes over part of Afghanistan next? (5)
 - Parking [unclear] That's [unclear] (7,6)
 - Restored certain acts, to make others behave? (3,4,3,3)
 - What sets off player bringing in one type of revenue? (9)
 - Way to discipline Aussie drivers in convoy (4,5)
 - Cockney's slant, influenced by a certain element? (7)
 - Left most of religious artwork in a colonnade (7)
 - Team working on English railway interchange (5)
 - They do global tours (5)

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Atherton at the double as Hick forces the pace

ONLY THREE hours' play were possible on the second day in Hobart as rain and drizzle swept in off the southern ocean. Yet if one day is enough to know everything, a theory once held by Fyodor Dostoevsky, a fraction is certainly enough to confirm long-held beliefs about Michael Atherton and Graeme Hick, who scored double and single centuries respectively.

The first thing that must be said is that the strike power of an Australian XI who were missing three front-line bowlers was not heavy-duty. But if Hick merely reinforced the view that he is a flat-track bully by mauling the back-up bowlers to all parts of the ground and beyond, the fact that Atherton could not change gear in his chanceless and unbeaten 210 was equally corroborative.

In contrast to Hick, who tends to dominate a standard attack totally, Atherton has not the means to ride roughshod over inferior bowling. A batsman with a mid-size array of shots, Atherton's power comes not from his weight of stroke, which relies on timing anyway, but from his mental strength.

Total concentration is all he knows and it is the main reason why there is such a disparity between his performances for England and Lancashire. Unlike some, he cannot simply

CRICKET

BY DEREK PRINGLE
in Hobart

England 469-6 dec
Australian XI 30-0

drop a level and still compete favourably, which is why his 483-minute innings here, sons Paul Reiffel and co. still had a decent market value, something that could not immediately be said of Hick's run-a-ball 125.

Some similarities can be drawn, however, and both needed runs, though whether Hick can draw as much succour from the occasion as the acting captain will soon be tested on Boxing Day at the MCG.

Atherton, whose first double century this was, relishes his reputation for being perverse and the milestone came with an ungainly hack back over the bowler's head. Prior to that, and apart from some delightful cover-driven fours off Brendon

Julian, he had slowed to a crawl as he approached his previous career-best score of 199, made against Durham at Gateshead in 1992. In fact, in the time it took him to go from 194 to 199, Hick advanced his own score from 42 to 96 in a flurry of big hitting.

There was geographic interest in his feat, too, and there cannot be many grounds further apart than Gateshead and the Bellerive Oval in Hobart, on which to register your two highest first-class scores. It was a distance Hick clearly tried to cover as he launched Michael Bevan's left-arm wrist spin for huge successive sixes.

Dropped at midweek by Stuart Law when he was 94, the brutality of Hick's second fifty, which took 28 balls, was at odds with the first, which was cautious and subdued and took 93. Perhaps Hick was trying to prove a point by showing Atherton he can whack it when he wants to: remember it was Atherton who declared on Hick.

In Sydney four years ago, when the batsman was on 98, at one stage, Hick was treating the bowling as he might in a benefit match, which was ironic considering that one of the main reasons for the Aussie selectors picking a strong side was to make a point about the relative weakness of county opposition encountered when other countries tour England.

But if many were quietly smug at the way Australia's attempt to humiliate England further backfired, a glimpse of why they generally lord it over us came from one of the many substitute fielders, Nathan Webb. Just 17, he fielded superbly, taking two catches in the deep including the wicket of Hick, whose attempt at another six ended when he held a difficult, swirling catch at long-off.

It is curious to suggest that the equivalent ability does not exist in England, it would be hard to imagine a 17-year-old looking quite at home as Webb did. Ben Hollis, four years older than him, certainly did not, the Surrey all-rounder recording his second duck in four days.

Coming in to replace Hick, Hollis edged his first ball to the wicketkeeper, after Julian batted it in short. If there was a thought among the selectors that he might possibly bat at seven in the next Test, it will surely have been shelved.

HOBART SCOREBOARD

Second day, England won toss
ENGLAND - First innings
Overnight: 298 for 3
M A Atherton not out . . . 210
G A Hick c sub b Bevan . . . 125
B C Hollis c C Gilchrist b Julian . . . 0
I W K Heggie c sub b Bevan . . . 4
Extras (lb, w, nb) . . . 13
Total (for 6 dec, 126.1 overs) . . . 469
Pau: 1-57, 2-125, 3-265, 4-460, 5-460, 6-469
Did not bat: G C Orr, A J Tudor, A R C Fraser, P M Such
Bowling: Hasprovicz 18 3-27-0, Reiffel 1, 3-4-0, Julian 32-4-98-1, Blevett

24-2-73-1, Law 21-4-88-1, Bevan 23-1-3-94-3, Elliott 5-0-24-0, Lehmann 1-0-10-0
AUSTRALIA XI - First innings
M J G Elliott not out . . . 14
G S Blevett not out . . . 14
Extras (lb, w, nb) . . . 4
Total (for 8, 11 overs) . . . 30
To bat: C J Richards, G S Lehmann, S G Law, M G Bevan, A C Gilchrist, P P Scriver, B P Julian, M S Kasprovicz, G R Robertson
Bowling: Tudor 6-3-12-0, Fraser 5-2-16-0
Umpires: S G Davies and P Parkes

حكايا من الارامل

MONDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • TELEVISION

Diana was trash,
homosexuality is an
illness, love's a fallacy:
Quentin Crisp is
approaching his
naughty 90th birthday,
but he's lost none
of his sauce

Old Spice

To survive at all was an adventure. To reach old age was a miracle. So wrote Quentin Crisp in his autobiography 30 years ago, when he was not even an old-age pensioner. What exclamatory words are left to describe the fact that this Christmas Day Quentin Crisp will not only be 90 years old, but will open that night in a new one-man show on Broadway? Mind-boggling? Unnatural? Creepy? Or does it simply bear out his belief that there is no such thing as long-term bad luck?

Quentin Crisp was only 58 years old when I first met him in a West End café, but he came across even then as a figure of faded, cobwebby grandeur, already making jokes about being old, saying, "At the end of the run, you can overact outrageously". I remember he wore silver sandals with high heels, women's slacks and a great deal of make-up. His pale-blue dyed hair was piled up into those starry, sky-bouffant waves that innumerable feature writers were soon to struggle to describe. His face looked both male and female, noble and ignoble, depraved and imperious. In recent times, I have spotted in the ageing Baroness Thatcher some of Quentin Crisp's outrageous haughtiness.

By the time I met him, Quentin Crisp had already had an extraordinary existence. The precise details of his self-inflicted martyrdom slowly became apparent. Born the wettest of weaklings, he had been an impossible child and a monstrous show-off. Perpetually suicidal and ill-equipped for living, he was unemployable, unfit even to make tea - "I would have made a bad boy," he says.

In his early twenties, he worked briefly as a male prostitute, but was no good at this either. Then, suddenly, he took several steps over the brink and became a self-evident homosexual, "a terrible painted figure prancing the streets", who was kicked, spat at and beaten up. "Nothing can describe the hatred and the terror and the trouble that I caused," he later told one of his many interviewers.

The bedsitter in Beaufort Street, Chelsea, where Quentin had lived since the summer of 1940, was a revelation. His joke about the dust not getting any worse after a few years has long since found its way into various dictionaries of quotations. The poet Philip O'Connor spoke of "that infernal kitchen" and Crisp himself boasted that his home was "a kind of curtained-raiser for *The Rocky Horror Show*". It was here that he lived off a food substitute called Complan, recharged his batteries and, in his own words, was his "horrible self".

Bare-footed and clad in a dressing gown shiny with grease, which barely covered his buttocks, he also welcomed all callers with great zest. "Rush in, sit down," he might say, then: "Flopp about on the bed." Visitors might be offered "a cup of pale grey coffee" or "some old toast".

I found Quentin was happy to talk for hours there, elevating or demoting his circle of acquaintances to a sort of village gentility or obscurity by never using their first names. He talked about a certain Mr Flipcroft, a Miss Lumley "who can do no wrong", a Miss Miller "who has the nerve to teach art appreciation". Whenever I left, Quentin would run down the stairs like a 10-year-old, turn on the hall light and bid me: "Call again. Incessantly." These were catch-phrases he used for everybody. Over the years I called on Quentin Crisp frequently, if not incessantly, and watched as he became famous.

His first step into the limelight came with the publication in 1968 of his autobiography, *The Naked Civil Servant*. This was widely praised and reviewed, going briefly into the bestseller list, but it did not have any effect on his life, other than producing a regular stream of anonymous telephone calls - his number has always been listed - which he described with some relish as "appointments with fear".

When the film of his book was broadcast in December 1975, with John Hurt requiring five different wigs to play the title role, these calls became more urgent. Almost overnight, Quentin Crisp became a cult figure, "the mother superior of homosexuality" and much else besides. Taxi drivers who had once refused to carry him now asked for his autograph. Quentin took this all very calmly - "I expect to be forgotten soon," he told me. No such luck. In January 1978, Quentin Crisp opened in his one-man show at the Duke of York's Theatre in London, lecturing his packed audience about style with only a bentwood chair and a hatstand for company on

stage. After great success, the show transferred to the Ambassador's Theatre. One person asked for their money back. Quentin paid up immediately.

Anyway, he now had other plans. "I can't go on appearing at the Ambassador's forever," he muttered, perhaps fearing a run of *Mousetrap* proportions. The previous autumn, he had not only been abroad for the first time in his life, he had been to New York, where *The Naked Civil Servant* had been shown on television. He now wanted to live there for ever - "In America, everyone is your friend". At the age of 72, he left England for good, acquiring the room on Manhattan's Lower East Side where he has now lived for 17 long, dark years.

I have seen little of him during this period, but have occasionally spoken to him on the telephone, which he still answers with the long drawn-out words, "Oh - yes?" instead of "Hello".

In 1991, he wrote to me saying, "I am now so old that I spend half my time asleep", but this has actually been a time of great industry and expansion. Quentin Crisp has appeared frequently on television. He has done his one-man show across America. He has lectured on four cruise ships and appeared in cinema adverts for Calvin Klein perfume and Levi's jeans. He played Elizabeth the First in Sally Potter's film of Virginia Woolf's *Orlando* with remarkable tenderness and restraint.

Last month, I telephoned him at his room on East 3rd Street and we arranged to meet. Somewhat disconcerted by a recent photograph in which the be-

hatted Mr Crisp looked like a little old witch, I did not know what to expect. What do 89-year-old men look like? Would I find a stick insect?

In the event, it was his feet and legs that I saw first as he descended the stairs of his building to let me in. For a worrying moment I thought that Quentin Crisp, the great stylist, had graduated to the leisure-wear and trainers beloved by octogenarians across the western world. But, no - Quentin was properly dressed in grey flannels and a tailored grey worsted jacket that I later discovered had been given to him by the supermodel Lauren Hutton. He was smaller, portlier, but his great beehive of back-combed white hair was as impressive as ever.

His room knocks his old place in Beaufort Street into a cocked hat. It's smaller to start with and, instead of having windows looking out on a leafy London street, there is only the darkened well of the building to contemplate. It is more like a disused workshop than a bedroom, clogged with possessions, coated with grime. Bottles of make-up, fixative, medicine and, thank God, a bottle of champagne, hog the floor along with a discarded shirt.

Quentin Crisp once said of the dirt in his London room: "It's just a question of keeping your nerve." To survive in his current abode must require nerves of steel, iron and flint. And he also has to

cope with the horrified reactions of friends who do not understand his lifestyle. Three times the police have been called, and once he was dragged off to hospital though there was nothing wrong with him.

Indeed, as Quentin settled on the bed and I took the only chair, so close to him that our knees kept touching, I reflected that he looks extraordinarily well. He wears less make-up than in the past. He has the actor's ability to turn it on. His gestures are deft and unhesitant. His head twists attentively and his voice is as full-throated as ever.

And so are his views. He continues to hate Oscar Wilde and Visconti's films, especially *Death in Venice*. His recent statement that Princess Diana was "trash" and "got what she deserved" generated letters telling him he was "a bitter, lonely old queen".

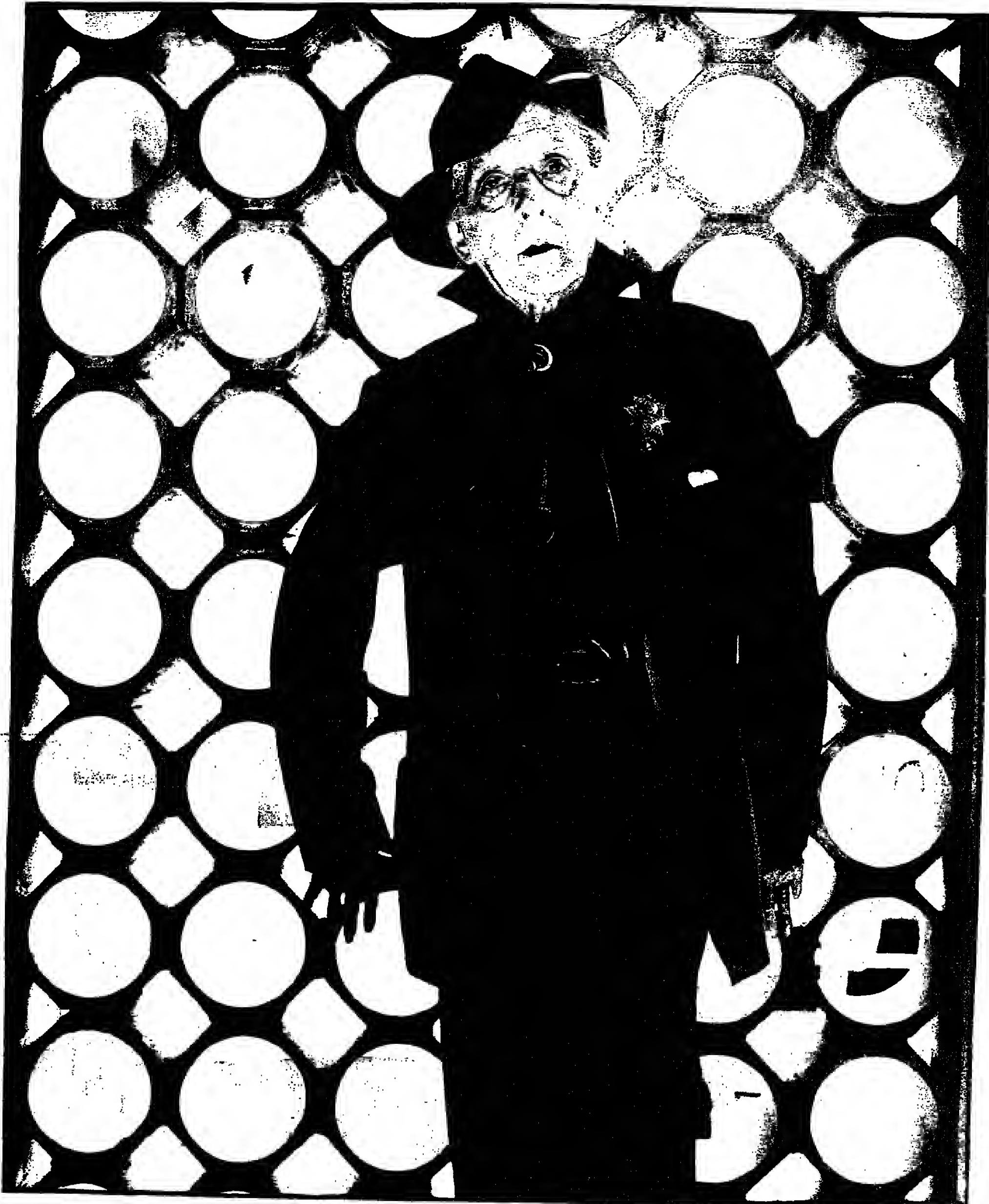
Quentin's chilly relationship with the gay community is another thorny and long-standing issue. He looks upon homosexuality as an illness and homosexuals as an inferior breed. Some time ago, he upset a Chicago audience by saying that the "obsession" with AIDS was a "fad". In America, he says, he has angered gay people but been accepted by "real" people. "And anyway," he adds with some bemusement, "it's now been explained to me that I'm not a homosexual. I'm a trans-something."

Quentin Crisp has been described as "icily unsentimental". On stage and in private, he rarely says the word "love" without giving it a mocking twang. Most people, he claims, are in perpetual torment about their relationships. He isn't. For him the idea

of having a best friend or any kind of hierarchy of friendship has always been abhorrent. I have known Quentin Crisp for 32 years but I do not feel any closer to him, or less intimate, than when we first met. "Love of everybody" is one of his abiding aims. "If love means anything at all, it means extending your hand to the unlovable," he says, giving an eerie significance to the fact that his birthday falls on the same day as the founder of the Christian religion. I did not ask him about the link, but I had not been long in his Lower East Side room before he was quoting from Saint Teresa of Avila: "We must treat all people as at least better than ourselves." Crisp's own blueprint for happiness is never to envy the lot of other people.

On 25 December, Quentin Crisp steps on to the stage of the Intar theatre on 42nd Street and, for the following six weeks, will "cast about for something to make the audience squeak". He will tell them how to be happy. He will also, no doubt, talk about death. His own death. He has been talking about his death since I first met him. "When it all ends," he'd say, "I'll get into my coffin and I'll sleep." Suicide has always attracted him - "The last graceful flourish of someone whose style has been completely mastered" - but it might not provide the "significant death" he yearns for. Last month, he declared, "It would be nice to be murdered". Whatever one makes of this claim, it would provide another spooky connection with his fellow birthday boy.

Deborah Ross is on holiday



Burly J Holmes/Katz

BY ANDREW BARROW

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Dealing with Iraq

Sir: Your editorial (18 December) poses the question, "How else do we deal with this dictator?"

Hasn't history taught us that the very best way to undermine dictatorships is to build as many links as we can with such countries, not close them down as we have done with Iraq? This has helped keep Saddam in power.

The Berlin wall was not only to keep people in but ideas out. We need to repair the damage with Iraq, both physical but also psychological. Drop the sanctions and invade the country with our influence; win the people over with contact with the West on all levels; not with bombs.

Such contact would be assisted by free trade and open borders and would be the greatest threat that Saddam could face.

In the short term, allow the Arab nations, with appropriate assistance (that they should and can pay for), to contain Iraq. We have enough needs at home on which to use the resources expended on damaging Iraq.
BOB GOODALL
St Albans, Hertfordshire

Sir: Supporters of the air strikes on Iraq who demand that opponents spell out their "alternative" to bombing have missed the point of the whole debate.

First, it is not for the governments of the United States and Britain to decide the best way to "deal with" Saddam Hussein. These governments have not been elected global policemen by the peoples of the world. Their mandate for military action in the Middle East rests solely on imperial presumption.

Second, Iraq is not the only country with the capability of manufacturing weapons of mass destruction, nor is it the only country ruled by a repressive dictatorship, nor is it the only country currently in violation of UN resolutions. The very people who now tell us there is no alternative to bombing are the same ones who throw up their hands in impotence when confronted with violations of UN resolutions by Israel in regard to the Palestinians, by UNITA in Angola, and by Indonesia in East Timor.

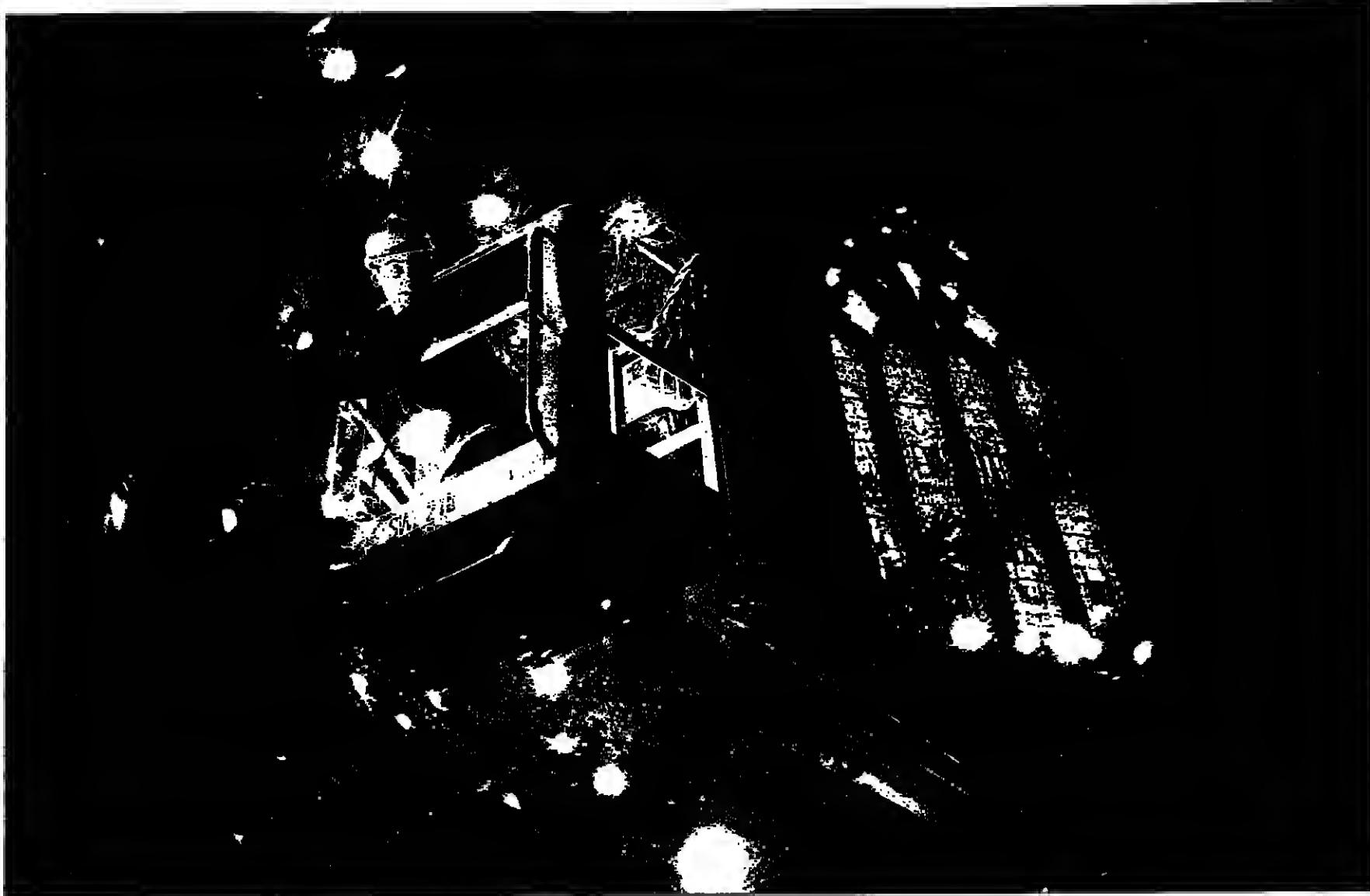
Third, there is ample reason to believe that the "problem" which we are told we must deal with is in fact a contrived pretext for military action. Former chief UN weapons inspector Scott Ritter has been quoted as saying, "What Richard Butler did last week with the inspections was a set up... This was designed to generate a conflict that would justify a bombing."
MIKE MARQUESE
London N1

Sir: Your report (12 December) about the way the sanctions on Iraq enable Saddam Hussein to maintain control over his people highlights one aspect of the adverse effects of the sanctions. More generally, sanctions, which have caused the death of between half a million and a million people according to informed sources, enable Saddam Hussein to portray the West as the enemies of the Iraqi people, strengthening his hold on the country. We believe that sanctions should be ended and the West should flood Iraq with food and medicines. As well as reducing the appalling suffering, this could reduce Saddam's grip on Iraq.

Most people recognise that it is never going to be possible to eliminate all weapons of mass destruction by technical means and inspection alone. Thus it is important to reduce the causes of conflict. Ending the sanctions would help to reduce the potential for hatred of the West by the Iraqis and other Arab and Muslim peoples. Whereas a massive military attack on Iraq could destabilise the Middle East, we believe a positive approach to the Iraqi people could help bring stability.
MARTIN QUICK
Chair
Architects and Engineers for Social Responsibility
Stroud, Gloucestershire

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, London E14 5DL and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.



Dressing the Cathedral No 1: Peter Hotine threads 60m of cable through the 42-foot Christmas tree in Ely cathedral

Brian Harris

Sir: America is doing through the thin veil of the UN what it has done to Cuba and Vietnam over the last 30 years. If it cannot win a war in a conventional manner (because it never "broke" Iraq), it will economically suppress that country indefinitely.

If it wants to use weapons of mass destruction as an excuse, why doesn't it bomb Pakistan, India or China?
DR P CONNOLLY
Halstead, Essex

Sir: The 1997 "Islamophobia Report" of the Runnymede Trust read in part: "At the time of the 1991 Gulf War, West Yorkshire police noted a 100-per cent increase in racist attacks in Bradford, and a 58-per cent increase in West Yorkshire as a whole."

The pattern has been repeated at every conflict since. It does not seem to matter to racists that Britons whose families originate in south Asia (or even Iraq) have no connection with the ruling clique in Iraq. In fact some of those attacked in Bradford were Hindus, and not Muslims. Already, three UK mosques have been attacked in the last two days.

We hope journalists, as well as extremists among British Muslims and elsewhere, will not inflame people of violence to attack Asians, especially Muslims, in this country.
DR RICHARD STONE
Chair Runnymede Commission
Rabbi ABRAHAM LEVY
Maimonides Foundation
KHAWAR QURESHI
Imam DR ABDULJALIL SAJJID
Colonus Foundation
London W1

TV religion

Sir: Recently I wrote to you about the complete lack of Christmas Day worship on BBC television (letter, 12 December). I seem to have touched a nerve, for the story has received considerable coverage in national newspapers and on radio and television. The only response I have had from the BBC so far has been a "with compliments" slip.

I am beginning to think that the cause of the malaise at the BBC is that its corporate thinking is dominated by fear. The superficial fear is about a "ratings war", but there may be a deeper fear which its treatment of religion symbolises. Perhaps it no longer has the confidence to deal with religious concepts of death or eternity or mercy or human meaning. It seems bewildered not only about religious matters but also about its own corporate purpose.

The BBC is a very significant part of our national life and needs to discover what the potential and purpose of public service broadcasting should be in the new millennium. Preoccupation with ratings and marginalisation of religion are the signs that confidence is seriously lacking.

When will the necessary public debate begin?
CHRISTOPHER ST ALBANS
(The Right Rev Christopher Herbert, Bishop of St Albans)
St Albans, Hertfordshire

Sir: Having just returned from a month's visit to Nigeria and having seen for myself the tragic mess that that once prosperous country has been reduced to by its military dictators, I believe it would be an act of wanton cruelty to deport Ben James there ("Banker loses his battle to stay", 15 December). After his long residency in Britain, a country he now sees as his own and to which he has contributed much through his business activities, for the Court of Appeal to treat him as if he were guilty of criminality is utterly distasteful.
VINCENT F BUTLER
Edinburgh

Sir: The omission of the discovery of penicillin from the New Millennium Experience Company's highlights of the last 1,000 years seems incredible ("Millennium

Sir: Andreas Whittam Smith's apology for current BBC editorial policy as it affects the churches (Comment, 14 December) misses the point. The issue is not how to cater for paid-up parish members. They have accepted the physical inconvenience of live attendance at church. What is missing on Christmas Day, and what is reduced at many other times, is religion and related concerns as an ingredient in the cultural diet of people for whom belonging to Christian institutions is of doubtful relevance - but who like to retain a vestigial sympathy and link.

Incarnation - god as man, man as god - is a dramatic idea. A television service to mark the idea on the day which is still called Christmas should not be in question.

The point isn't "selling" Christianity, or pushing messages. Christianity in Britain is close to the core traditions of the people. But folk memory needs to be refreshed - and associated with

various aspects of culture and thought in ways that television and radio can manage effectively and helpfully. It is a pity religion has been pushed into a ghetto by those in charge of the media. Christianity does not need yet more pulpits to preach to the converted. That is what "Christian" television and radio stations do. It is the general diet which needs appropriate religious ingredients to prevent it becoming even more impoverished.

Why do enormous numbers of non-Christian or vaguely Christian parents opt to send their children to "church" schools? What that means is ignored by the BBC.
TOM SUTCLIFFE
London SW16

Software that is PC

Sir: The main thrust of Eva Pascoe's article about open source software (Network, 14 December) appears to be a sort of anti-Microsoft crusade. Proponents of

the Linux operating system (and for that matter Apple Mac users) seem to be almost fanatical in their devotion. There is a certain cachet in using a product which is non-mainstream. You become the new techno-warrior, and not some Redmond clone.

The main benefits touted by Ms Pascoe for using open source software appear to be that it is a Bill Gates-free desktop; that the "guys from Redmond" won't get their "bounty"; that Microsoft is operating a monopoly from which only cyber-heroes such as the comic-reading ex-hacker Jamie Zovinsky, and other "legends" can save us.

This all misses the point. People running mission-critical applications in heterogeneous environments buy products which are based on standards and will integrate well with their existing products; which will scale well and support a larger user base; which are reliable and for which there is a high level of skills available to provide support.

The main problem with Linux is just that people do modify it. There is no standard version. Developers need to produce different versions of their applications - one for Linux on a Sun, one for the PC version and so on.

There is nothing wrong with people developing code and distributing it to their friends, colleagues and like-minded folk on the Net and, in all likelihood, this will have a positive effect on the industry; but to state that all such software is inherently better than anything developed by the evil empire in Redmond is nonsense.

Even if open source software were technically better, which in the case of Linux is highly debatable, a product with wider acceptance is more important to corporate users. History is littered with products which were arguably better, but never took off. Anyone got any Betamax movies I can borrow?
ANDREW WARREN
Castle Douglas, Dumfries and Galloway

mono-clonal antibodies (letter, 18 December). In the UK, the mouse was the animal almost invariably used for this purpose. However, in a November 1997 statement, the government announced that the use of mice to produce mono-clonal antibodies would no longer be allowed unless exceptional justification could be provided. In vitro methods of production are to be used instead.
CHRISTINE ORR
British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection
London N7

Sir: May I add to Donald Foreman's list of the achievements of the Duke of Cambridge (letter, 18 December)? He was so shocked by the playing of military bands that he founded the School of Army Music.
CAROLYN BECKINGHAM
Leaves, East Sussex

IN BRIEF

defined by a sandwich". 17 December). Alexander Fleming's discovery and its development by Howard Florey and Ernst Chain revolutionised medicine and affected for the better the lives of every one of us. It began the antibiotic age in medicine which has saved countless lives. It is a sad reflection on those organising the millennium celebrations that they should rate the sandwich a higher achievement.
KEVIN BROWN
Trust Archivist and Curator
Alexander Fleming Laboratory
Museum
London W2

Sir: Dr Hillman asserts that there is no substitute for a living organism in the production of

Every lame, sitting and dead duck will have its day

I HAVE received many letters on the subject of our bombing raids on Iraq, with an interesting range of viewpoints, and I have decided to print some of them here today.

From General Sir Nigel Curmudgeon MC
Sir: Am I the only one who finds the spectacle of Tony Blair following in Bill Clinton's wake, rather like the little page boy following Good King Wenceslas, a bit nauseating? If we must try and settle Saddam's hash, surely we should not duck our responsibilities but have the courage to go in there and bomb the hell out of Baghdad without waiting for the Americans to join in? The sight of Tony Blair trotting along like Clinton's poodle is enough to make your blood boil.
Yours etc

From Mrs Noreen Dempster
Sir: As past president of the Poodle Society of Great Britain, I take great exception to the imputation of the preceding letter that a poodle is a weak-minded, copycat of a dog. The poodle is loyal, yes, but also independent, brave, intelligent and anything but a milksop. I do not know how the poodle ever got the reputation of being a lame duck, but I resent the way it has become a general Aunt Sally. Let us have an end to it - or at least make fun of some other dog for a while!
Yours etc

From Mrs Sally Wagstaff
Sir: Here we go again. I refer, of course, to the phrase used in the preceding letter, namely "Aunt Sally". I have gone through my life grinding my teeth with fury at the

image of this name as some sort of sitting duck for general target practice. It is high time it ceased. I have had it up to here with people saying "Aunt Sally", which not only suggests that Sally is a silly name but also that all Sallies are aunt-ish. I am young and pretty so the phrase "Aunt Sally" makes me feel a bit schizophrenic sometimes.
Yours etc

From Mr Dick Norman
Sir: I cannot believe that someone who is so sensitive about her name can be so insensitive about the use of the word "schizophrenic". For heaven's sake, do people still think that "schizophrenic" means "having a split personality"? Schizophrenia is a complex mental state which takes various forms, but split personality is not one of them.



MILES KINGTON
The sight of Tony Blair trotting along like Clinton's poodle makes the blood boil

Let me assure you that the old idea of schizophrenia is a dead duck.
Yours etc

From Dr Ben Salamander
Sir: I feel I cannot resist acting in my capacity as a keen ornithologist and pointing out that in every letter you have printed so far there has been a calculated insult to my favourite bird, the duck. Duck responsibilities... lame duck... sitting duck... dead duck... All the old clichés have been trotted out - I am surprised that nobody has yet used "out for a duck" - and all at the expense of the good old duck. But why? The duck is a handsome creature. It is loyal, fiercely intelligent, faithful and obedient to its master, and also tastes jolly good in orange sauce. Let us have no more of these gubbins.
Yours etc

From Mr Solomon Gubbins
Sir: I have long ago given up try-

ing to work out why the word "gubbins" is synonymous with "mess" or "dog's dinner". Nobody in this world has the surname Mess or Dog's Dinner, but some of us are blessed with the name Gubbins and some of us are sick to death of this constant misuse of our monicker. Gubbins is a grand old Lincolnshire name meaning "gooseherd" or "if it isn't, it jolly well should be, and if other Gubbinses are too lily-livered to stand up and defend their grand old name, then I am not."
Yours etc

From Mrs Lily Leadwell
Sir: I think you can probably guess why I am writing to you in white-hot fury. Yes, it's that word "lily-livered". Oh, Mr Gubbins may get hot under the collar when he hears the word "gubbins", and he is en-

Teen mums at risk

Sir: Yasmin Alibhai-Brown talks a lot of sense on the subject of teenage mothers ("A new generation of mothers", 17 December). She is right that society's tendency to sexualise young people at an earlier age is one of the problems that underpin the increasing numbers of teenage parents. She is in my view right that some young women have children because they look at their futures and can't see any reason not to get pregnant - a double negative, not a positive choice.

If any group of young people is at risk of social exclusion, it is teen parents. It was because of this link that the Social Exclusion Unit was given this subject to consider. It is working closely with the Department of Health on health and social services issues. The problem is complex and cuts across the activities of many parts of Government - education and employment, and the whole package of support for teenage parents and their children. An approach that ignored these issues would have been rightly criticised as too narrow.

Young women get pregnant early for many reasons. But it is possible to create a picture of the young woman most at risk of a teenage pregnancy. Often, they have low educational attainment, their families have had financial problems, their own mothers were teenage mums, and they have a preference themselves for early motherhood. More than half of those with all these characteristics will become a teenage mother. Very few of those with none of them will. The last thing anyone wants to do is stigmatise vulnerable young people. But you do them a disservice by ignoring the facts.

Lastly, Yasmin is wrong to suggest that the Unit's work has been blocked or delayed for dark political reasons. The truth is rather more mundane. The Unit's work on teenage parenthood has produced over three times more submissions and pieces of research than any of its other reports. Its past work has been characterised by a belief in listening to views from the front line and a commitment to producing soundly based, common-sense proposals.

Teenage pregnancy is a complex area. I am sure Yasmin would agree that it is better that we do it right rather than do it in a hurry. The costs of getting it wrong are too high.
TESSA JOWELL MP
Minister of State for Public Health
Department of Health
London SW1

St Martin's legacy

Sir: In the shadow of St Martin-in-the-Fields church, what better image to erect on the vacant plinth in Trafalgar Square (letter, 16 December) than that of Martin, born in eastern Europe, died in France, whose feast day in the Christian calendar is 11 November: the day we associate with armistice after ghastly combat.

In youth a soldier, he died a missionary of the gospel of peace, and is famous for having shared his military cloak with a naked beggar. A sculptor could represent in contemporary terms this dramatic act of sharing. Mindful as we are of the need for the rich nations to share with the poor, the need to solve the problem of debt owed by developing nations, the need to tackle inequalities in our national life, and the claims on our charity made daily by individuals in our own cities and towns, a statue of Martin and a beggar could provide an inspiration for us all to carry into the third millennium of the Christian era.

The Rev RICHARD HAYES
St Mary Woolnoth Church
London EC3

Least said ...

Sir: I thought Thursday's article on minimalism good fun - but a bit long.
WALTER JACK
Bristol

From Mrs Dora Williams
Sir: As my name suggests, I am Welsh, and one of the things I cannot abide is the use of the phrase "to Welsh on someone". This phrase has not been used by anyone in any of these letters, but I thought I would write in and say this anyway. Call me over-sensitive if you like. Everyone else does.
Yours etc

Thanks for the letters. I am sorry I did not have space for more.

سكرا من الاربع

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He should go. He won't go. And we'll be the worse for it

THE FIRST casualty of America's impeachment crisis is Tony Blair. As Bill Clinton hunkered down in Washington, Britain's Prime Minister came on ever more strongly in London as the military "victor" in the battle against Iraq. It is a triumphalism he will have cause to regret. The bombing of Saddam Hussein was almost certainly not determined by Clinton's woes; but the high rhetoric of war and danger uttered while the Americans - with the British in tow - unleashed their might on Iraq night after night, was little more than obscene.

"Politics has become a substitute for violence," said Vice-President Al Gore on the White House lawn in fury after the impeachment vote. But whatever politics has become, violence is still unsubstituted - at least so far as the West "punishing" a Third World country is concerned.

But then it is the sheer unreality of events that has marked more than anything else the events of the last four days; the gap between the grave words of war and the arms-length, fully televised bombardment that followed; the distance between the magnitude of impeachment and the offence of philandering. To the politicians concerned, this may seem the most important, the most historic moment of their lives: Blair in his war bunker, and the Republicans taking over the articles of impeachment to the Senate. To the public at large, however, it has all the elements of boys playing games.

It is the gap between political reality and public perception which may well be the most important aspect of these events. Of course, there are real reasons for impeaching the President, just as there are real reasons for trying to destroy Saddam Hussein's weapons of mass destruction. The reality is that a US president in the eyes of the majority of people in Congress has lied under oath and acted to pervert the course of justice, however sordidly irrelevant the actual case.

It is all very well for Clinton's supporters to go on about how partisan has been the occasion, and how personalised. It has been partisan, in the very worst possible way. And it has displayed a personal loathing of President Clinton that is beyond any fair or reasonable manner of conducting affairs. But then politics in America has always been passionately partisan. The last president to be impeached, Andrew Johnson, was tried by the Senate on entirely political grounds. It has been a myth of Reagan and now Clinton to talk of consensus and "pulling together". Politics is about power and when power is up for grabs - as it always is in the final term of a president and even more so when that President has opened his flank for the attack - then the politics will get rougher.

Clinton's fault in these terms has not been to be too liberal, nor even that he sinned, but to have given the



impression that he didn't mind too much about it all. Given half a chance, he would bolt for the door and be up to his old tricks again as soon as no one was looking. The Republicans are determined that will not happen. Instead of encouraging censure as a painful lesson, Clinton's supporters have promoted it as a means of escape. And that, on present mood, the Congressional majority will not allow.

All this need not worry the US voter too much. America is a country of peculiar balances of power and unique resilience. It can survive a period of high temperatures in Washington without overheating in Kansas. Even Clinton - who in real policy terms has achieved remarkably little during his six years in office - could probably stumble on another two years continuing to do little more, shamed but not ashamed.

The world, however, will find it rather more difficult to cope not only with a passive America but one whose president is maimed and whose relations with the political establishment is so poisoned that he can deliver nothing

but the occasional jabs of his military. It shouldn't be so, but the end of the Cold War and the shifts in economic fortune have left the international scene in an unusual vacuum. American leadership, or at least the provision of American muscle, is needed.

The Middle East is the obvious example. Clinton's visit to the region to try and revive the dying peace process was marred from the start by his troubles at home. If it was not for those troubles, he would probably never have tried it. The superimposition of the Iraqi crisis, coincident although it was, has only made that failure the worse. While Clinton and Blair have talked of containment, the rest of the Middle East has simply seen further evidence of Arab humiliation and powerlessness before the West. The allies, said Tony Blair at the beginning, had no choice but to respond once Saddam Hussein had deliberately cocked a snook at the inspectorate and made a mockery of his promises of a few months ago. But even accepting this, which we shouldn't, "no

choice" is the very worst route of politics, still more of war. The lesson of this - and the lesson that Blair seems so reluctant to understand - is that the vacuum of international politics has to be filled by international institutions. The result of the bombardment of Iraq has been a diminution of the UN. Blair has been left alone on a stage which should never have been held by a duet in the first place. As Clinton has failed at home, so Blair's divorce from the rest of the world and the ridiculousness of Britain's position as America's mercenary has seemed more glaring.

As for Clinton, one can only despair. The very character - his buoyancy - that makes him determined to fight on is the very character that means his enemies will not rest until they have finished him. It's almost impossible to see compromise in these circumstances, or any conclusion that does not bear the seeds of its own poison. He should resign. He won't resign. The world will be the worse for it, and Blair the littler.

Invitation to a beheading for the politicians of the next century

WHY ARE politicians, Clinton most dramatically among them, regarded with such contempt? In most opinion polls they vie with journalists for bottom place in public esteem. Journalists I can understand, but politicians? After all, there are only two ways of resolving conflict. One is through armed force and we see the grim consequences of that in Iraq. The other is through politicians with conflicting views manoeuvring, intriguing, manipulating and debating in order to win arguments.

I restate what Basil Fawley would call "a statement of the bleedin' obvious" because there is a follow-up that should be as equally "bleedin' obvious": if practising the art of politics is a much better way of resolving disputes than military might, we need the best political leaders we can get. Pretty damned obvious isn't it? In which case, why do we impose conditions on the lives of political leaders that would deter all but the most driven or unhinged?

As we head towards the Millennium, a president of the United States has been impeached for an office fling. The British Foreign Secretary awaits nervously the publication of a book by his former wife, fearing that any revelations about his past private life will be splashed across every front page. His colleague, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, awaits with a similar trepidation the appearance of his biography written by a hostile journalist with a sharp instinct for news stories, having already been taunted for a trip to Rio de Janeiro and "outed" live on *News*

night. The former Secretary of State for Wales licks his wounds, his political career in ruins after an excursion on Clapham Common. The Minister for Agriculture recovers from the ordeal of making a public statement confessing that he is gay. Several junior ministers fear it will be their turn next. What century are we living in?

Aspiring young Americans watching the humiliation of Clinton, ageing visibly before our eyes, will surely think twice about entering politics. The argument that justifies his persecution at the hand of desperate Republicans is that impeachment has nothing to do with sex and everything to do with perjury. In which case, how was it that Clinton was ever asked in court about his sex life? What a bizarre legal system which allows such questions to be posed to a president when his infidelities had no relevance to the breaking of any law. That is just the legal dimension. For the rest of the time, a president is placed on a pedestal only to be forced to dance humbly to the discordant tunes of Congress. Clinton, a better president than the farce in Washington and the ill-thought-out attacks on Iraq suggest, does not deserve this.

In Britain the humiliations of those we elect take a different, but equally perverse, form. Unlike American presidents, governments are given virtually untrammelled power. Mad policies such as the poll tax can reach the statute books without any great political tremors (the tremors come only once the mad policies take effect, by which time it is too late); entire tiers of government can be abolished at the



STEVE RICHARDS

Why do we impose such conditions on politicians' lives that deter all but the most driven or unhinged?

whim of centralising prime ministers such as Margaret Thatcher; anti-terrorist legislation likely to have no practical effect on catching terrorists can be rushed through Parliament in two days, as happened last September; and a Commons debate on Iraq can be held without a vote being allowed at the end - but if a minister is caught on Clapham Common, there is uproar. And which business leader would accept an invitation to join the Government having seen Geoffrey Robinson, repeatedly, and Lord Simon, sporadically, being portrayed as crooks after taking unpaid, unglamorous junior ministerial posts?

The legislators should be given a hard time for bad legislation, not for their private lives. Maybe then Britain would get better politicians and better policies.

This is not to argue that politicians should be treated uncritically; far from it. This government with its large majority, intolerance of dissent and weak opposition needs to be subjected to the most intense scrutiny at all times, including when its expensive bombs (paid for by "the people's money") are heading for Iraq. The same applies in the US. Clinton's mendacity cried out to be exposed and punished. But some sense of proportion should also be retained. The lies have been exposed. Clinton has been punished and humiliated for months. Enough; he should be allowed to finish his term as the voters now wish and as they wanted when they re-elected him.

Of course some politicians merit the sneering cynicism with which they are viewed. There are bastards in politics as in any profession. But it is also true that many politicians could be earning infinitely more money in other jobs. At which point spare a thought, if you can face it so close to Christmas, for members of the Shadow Cabinet. I was not surprised to read the other day that John Redwood was contemplating leaving politics for a well-paid job elsewhere. Certainly his former adviser, Hywell Williams, told him to pack it in and make more money in the private sector after his leadership bid failed last year. I do not want to turn Redwood or Michael Howard into unlikely romantic heroes. Given the raw material, I would not succeed if I tried. Nor is there any need to shed a tear about their parious financial states. But it should be noted that they are

staying on in opposition, knowing almost certainly that they will not taste power again, heading towards retirement issuing unread press releases. In October 1997, I asked Redwood why he was staying on.

"There has to be an opposition. Someone's got to do it," he said.

They are doing their duty and - unlike Labour in the early 1980s when most of the Shadow Cabinet seemed to be having a ball as the party headed towards oblivion - they do not even look as if they are enjoying it. There were also many Labour frontbenchers who could have earned much more elsewhere in the 1980s but stayed on in what many of them thought would be a forlorn attempt to revive their party.

With the media so vast and the opportunities in business so great, politics already faces immense competition for talent. Ken Livingstone observed after the Thatcherite assault on local government that anyone who wished to become a councillor should see a psychiatrist. As a president faces a trial in the Senate and politicians in Britain live in fear of some infidelity or other being exposed, how many bright young things are going to opt for national politics in the new century? If the future crop of national politicians do not impress, we voters are largely to blame. We get the politicians we deserve. If we want better ones, we should never forget that the alternative to their manoeuvring is the resolution of dispute through battle. A rowdy debate in the Commons is an infinitely more pleasing spectacle than the rubble of a bombed building in Baghdad.

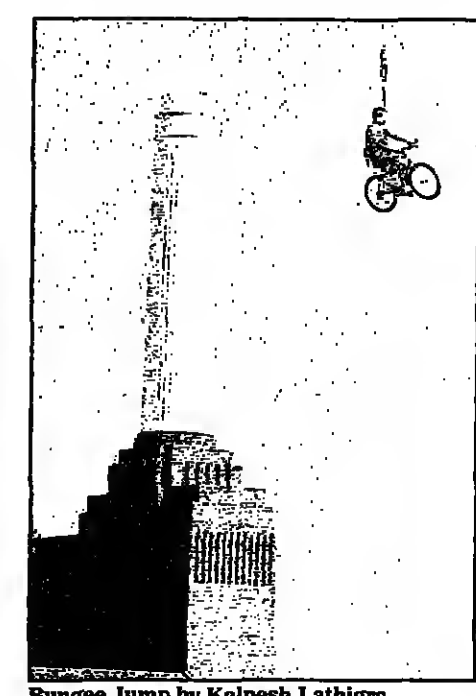
QUOTE OF THE DAY

"What we have done is to put him back firmly in the cage and secure it."
Tony Blair, on Saddam Hussein

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"I have been told I was on the road to hell, but I had no idea it was just a mile down the road with a dome on it."
Abraham Lincoln, 16th President of the United States

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Bungee Jump by Kalpesh Lathigra Ref: 00110

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MONITOR

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD

British press reaction to the impeachment of President Clinton by the US Congress

IN THE end, the issue is about the constitutional implications of resignation, and whether it is warranted by the seriousness of [Clinton's] offence. American voters have made their views clear on this - they want neither resignation nor impeachment.

Unless and until that changes, Clinton should stay on.
The Observer

CLINTON HAS lost the credibility he might have earned for other aspects of his presiden-

cy and is no longer fit to lead the Western world. The Republican Speaker-elect, Bob Livingston, showed him the way to go when he resigned from the House of Representatives [over] his extra-marital affair. It is time to show Bill the door, and say hello to Gore.
News of the World

THE CRUDE Republican attempt to kick Mr Clinton out of office is particularly outrageous at this time of international cri-

sis. He has faced a trial rigged on party lines by right-wingers determined to drive him out of the presidency. Most ordinary Americans think he is doing a good job - and that far out-

weighs his affair with a young woman in the White House.
Sunday Mirror

THOSE WHO still seek to defend [Clinton] on the grounds that

he should not have been impeached because of hanky-panky with an employee young enough to be his daughter totally miss the point. It is about America's chief law enforcement officer solemnly swearing to protect the country's system of law - then lying before a Federal Grand Jury and obstructing justice.
The Mail on Sunday

MANY PEOPLE... forget that America's authority in the world depends on more than its physical strength. The integrity of the man in the Oval Office matters as much, and Mr Clinton has been found wanting. If he survives a Senate trial, many will believe he has been allowed to mock the constitution he is charged to uphold. Unlikely that it is, Mr Clinton should go quietly before he inflicts further damage on his country, and allows Saddam the last, hollow laugh.
The Sunday Times

PANDORA

IN A Commons debate on "competitiveness" last Wednesday, the nation's greatest living spin-doctor, DIT minister Peter Mandelson, was stunned by an Allen Force described by Mandelson himself later as "extra-planetary". Can anyone provide Pandora with a translation of Tory MP John Redwood's following statement: "Is the e-envoy in addition to the digital envoy announced a short while ago? Will those two gentlemen or ladies be in competition, or has the digital envoy been abolished before being approved, only to be replaced by the putative e-envoy? The whole thing is risible and muddled." Anyone have a Vulcan dictionary handy?

AS THE joyous Christmas television festival descends upon us, Pandora offers readers a few "must-see" tips. On Christmas Day, during *Before They Were Famous III* on BBC 1, don't miss the clip in which schoolboy David Beckham is shown juggling a football in front of a bunch of seated lads until he accidentally makes contact with one of their heads. Presenter Angus Deayton chimes in with: "David later claimed he never made contact with the lad, but if we carefully examine the video evidence I think we can see that he did." Isn't that hilarious? And if your sides aren't already split beyond repair, tune in on Boxing Day to BBC 2's profile "Are You Watching Jimmy Hill?" in which Terry Venables describes walking across the pitch with Jimmy at an Everton vs Liverpool match. The crowd began to chant "Jimmy Hill's a wanker, Jimmy Hill's a..." And what did Jimmy say? "They love me here." Oh yes, you'll laugh till you cry.

Is James Brown (pictured, in laddish days) beginning to show signs of strain? In *The Times* last Friday, the ex-editor of *Loaded* and now pin-striped editor of *GQ* declared that "to

partake in the GQ lifestyle" it's not necessary to be wealthy or upperclass - "you just have to feel that you could rob a bank". It's to be hoped this won't be necessary, but the ex-New Lad certainly has a struggle on his hands. The magazine's total ABC news-trade sales figures for the period January-June 1997, just before Brown's arrival, were 111,547. The most recent figures, January-June 1998, were 104,481.

TAKI'S DIGNIFIED announcement in the current *Spectator* that he is to leave these shores - "I crap on cowardly pygmies like Cook, Mandelson and Straw, and will give up my British residence as soon as Palazzo Taki is ready in February" - threatens to cast the nation into mourning. In the meantime, news reaches Pandora of a triumph scored at a recent New York luncheon party by the astute Greek political and ethical commentator. While brandishing his cheque book, the lion-hearted Taki managed to face down such celebrity dwarves as novelist Norman Mailer, writer Gay Talese, actor Michael Douglas, *Vanity Fair* editor Graydon Carter and Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist David Halberstam - all of whom lacked the courage to accept the Greek's political betting proposition. And what was the wager? Taki wanted to bet that Bill Clinton would not be impeached.

NOT LONG ago media luminary Janet Street-Porter sparkily regaled executives at an Institute of Sales Promotion lunch about her latest television commercial. She reported that she had been rewarded with £35,000 and an original Alexander McQueen dress from entertainment group ONdigital. The thrust of the ad took advantage of Janet's unique place in the public's affection, with her saying to camera: "Hello, I know you don't like me, but now you have a choice." Unfortunately, when Pandora finally reached Janet to discuss this original marketing ploy, Ms Street-Porter was not in her usual beneficent mood. "Stop harassing me," she rasped. "You're really irritating me. Go ahead and write what you like. I don't ever call back. I don't want to be in diaries." So it will be, darling.



An actor damned by his creation



STEVEN BERKOFF

Theatre can be a great restorer, the baptismal river where your sins are washed off

ANTHONY HOPKINS, who last week covered the tahlids with statements that acting was driving him to a nervous breakdown and that he was giving it up to preserve his sanity, is a highly gifted film and stage actor, particularly in film where he famously demonstrates a rare talent for analysis of character. He peels back the skin of his roles, not unlike Hannibal Lecter, and pours himself inside them. He cannot, as many players do, stand outside and kick their character around and he is unaffected. No matter how successful *Silence of the Lambs* was, how clever his creation, it is possible that he may feel sullied and even damned by it.

If in my modest career I have been frequently singled out for a particular performance in some old Hollywood caper, how much more must Hopkins's ears be assaulted by fans who have now relegated the man's entire career to a sicko-movie freak. Eventually you become who the public think you are, unless you are bolstered by a vital and supportive social structure, or have alternative means of re-identifying yourself, by taking up the reins of

production and selecting your own material. By his own admission Hopkins is a loner, preferring his own company, which is the prerogative of many hyper-creative and raw artists, but then he has no wedge of human flesh as a protective wall between him and the world. Acting *per se* does not make you mad, necessarily, unless you feel that you have vitiated your power or

corrupted your talents. Hopkins certainly hasn't done this to anything like the extent of his saner inferiors who wallow from junk to junk seemingly unaffected. However, these actors are not burdened with Hopkins's finer perceptions. Madness is directly linked to forcing a highly developed ego to swallow garbage. The more delicate the system, the more aggressive the sickness.

Monroe started to lose herself, as did Montgomery Clift, and a dozen more who were force-fed with the mulch that their talents had grown out of and were not strong enough to withstand. The actor is unique in a sense that the material used is his own body and soul. This makes him extraordinarily vulnerable. However, vulnerability can illuminate a character that the actor believes in and feels pride in serving. Conversely, humiliation can send an actor into a wobble, where the shame can only be anaesthetised by alcohol or injection.

Madness for actors is par for the course. However, most great actors are extremely sane. They may suffer from hyper-awareness, having stretched their radar systems, since

after a while, the scanner cannot be easily switched off. Obsessions, compulsions and perfectionism become a few of the many psychic disturbances that we are prone to. Some of us have managed to balance an acting life with writing or directing, thus the child becomes a parent, able to create for others.

While theatre can be stress-making, a great and demanding role can be liberating and purging - an opportunity to vent all shades of emotion, including those of madness in the service of the character. This has a purgative effect. Since theatre usually deals with language in a heightened form, the roles you are playing are likely to enhance rather than deflate or humiliate.

You cannot feel shame playing *Lear*, *Hamlet*, *Macbeth* or *Chekov*. You might feel pride, he heartened, even ennobled and believe yourself to be an emissary of literature, a communicator or a teacher. An intelligent audience confirms you as their guide - their Prometheus carrying the fire of inspiration. A bunch of spotty popcorn eaters slurping Pepsi and watching *Silence of the Lambs* is not likely to do that, but

[Hopkins's role in] *Remains of the Day* was a perfect performance, any actor would have been proud of for years.

Nevertheless, without wishing to bang the luvvie drum, theatre for an actor can be a great restorer; the baptismal river where your sins are washed off. That's why many a movie actor who was stage-trained likes to return to the font as a means of recovering their ego. There an actor's skill, sensitivity and power is tested to the limit and thus the personality re-identifies itself. Madness is a form of alienation from the soul.

And if I'm not mistaken, it was the theatre that helped restore Hopkins's career when he returned after years of Hollywood drift. At 60, Sir Anthony appears to be an actor in peak condition - maybe the answer is to have an occasional theatrical restorative. Olivier was still playing *Othello* at 60 and then Edgar in *Dance of Death* - a very suitable role for Hopkins. One of the good things about theatre is that it gives you a little time to dwell on your madness, but a great opportunity to use it.

Nothing has felt quite right about the attacks on Iraq



ANDREAS WHITTAM SMITH

Why were Saddam's neighbours not urging us on, providing help and rejoicing in our success?

WAS THERE large-scale rejoicing yesterday after the Prime Minister's announcement that the aims of military action against Iraq had been achieved, and within four days, and with no allied casualties? Of course not. The reaction has been one of mild relief, no jubilation, no satisfaction taken from a job well done. The reason is that nothing that has happened since bombing began on Wednesday night has felt quite right.

To begin with, it didn't feel quite right that President Clinton should launch the attack just before the House of Representatives was due to debate his impeachment. In a democracy the leader needs moral authority to wage war and to risk the lives of members of the armed forces. Indeed the President of the United States is also America's Commander-in-Chief. Yet immediately after Mr Clinton's statement, the majority leader in the Senate, Trent Lott, said: "I cannot support this military action in the Gulf at this time." This turning of the back, by the senior member of the Republican Party, when American troops were risking their lives, was astonishing. By then it was too late for Tony Blair to withdraw, but was he allowed to withdraw when he saw the patriotic Republican Party disown the Commander-in-Chief?

Nor was the report by the United Nations' inspectors in Iraq, whose negative findings on the government's level of compliance was the immediate cause of Anglo-American retaliation, as widely accepted as one would expect. President Clinton gave their account an effective spin - instead of the inspectors disarming Saddam, Saddam had disarmed the inspectors - but the UN secretary general, Kofi Annan, described Iraqi compliance as a "mixed picture" that falls short of "full cooperation". In fact the so-called

Unicorn report does not predict an emergency. It merely refers to routine violations. Curious, too, was the reaction of the supposed beneficiaries of the bombing of Iraq, the neighbouring countries of the Middle East. The President and the Prime Minister said that Saddam must not be allowed to threaten his neighbours with nuclear weapons, poison gas or biological weapons. Indeed not. But why, then, were the neighbours not urging us on, providing all the help they could and rejoicing in our success? Mr Blair implies that they secretly harbour these emotions but dare not express them. We are to think of them as profoundly but silently thankful.

This is possible. On the other hand, the silence may be because the overriding feeling of Iraq's neighbours is repugnance at the sight of nations from what is seen as the Christian, colonialist West assaulting a Muslim, Arab country, what-

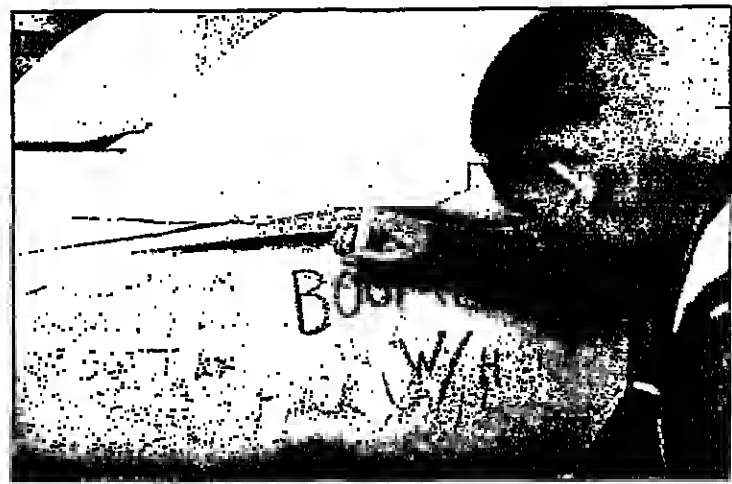
ever its faults. In which case, one wonders what we are doing there.

We used to be told that intervention was necessary to protect our oil supplies. Now that there is a glut - so that even last week the oil price continued to fall - this is no longer put forward as a reason.

Instead, we are asked to consider a more general point. While other countries possess weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missiles, with Saddam there is one big difference - he has used them, not once but repeatedly. Left unchecked, Saddam will use these terrible weapons again. This is a proposition with seeming power. It implies that the international community cannot and should not tolerate murderous dictators holding such weapons. Except that three members of the five permanent members of the Security Council - France, Russia and China - do not agree that Saddam is such a worrying case. Nor do we receive any support worth having from our European partners. Germany's backing is tepid to the point of meaninglessness. The rest are silent. The moral case receives no support from other countries like ourselves.

This is very peculiar. One explanation would be that our European neighbours do not believe that Saddam's Iraq is such a terrible threat. They note that of Saddam's 950 short- and medium-range missiles that he had acquired before 1991, all have been found and destroyed. Thus he lacks conventional means of projecting chemical or biological material beyond his borders.

An alternative interpretation is that France, Germany, Italy, Spain and the rest simply do not believe in the efficacy of aerial assault. The snatches of film of bombs hitting their targets which the Ministry of Defence shows every day are not



A US airman writes a 'goodwill' message on a missile EPA

convincing. We have no idea whether the target has been correctly identified or whether it contains what it is said to contain. Did we destroy any Republican Guards, or "special" Republican Guards or the "drones of death" as the Secretary of State, George Robertson, calls the unmanned aircraft which Saddam is supposed to be constructing?

Likewise we are asked to believe that Saddam can only maintain his power by using a "command and control" system and this we have severely damaged. But in the past, dictators have generally got along without such sophisticated communications networks.

It may also be the case that our neighbours' withholding of support is explained by their embarrassment. For they see American policy as cruel and counter-productive. Cruel because some Iraqi civilians have undoubtedly been killed or injured during the past few days, and cruel because the policy of economic sanctions has reduced Iraq to a state of malnutrition and disease. As Robert Fisk reported on Fri-

day, Dennis Halliday, who ran the UN oil-for-food programme in Baghdad, resigned when he realised that thousands of Iraqi children were dying every month because of sanctions. He commented: "We are in the process of destroying an entire society... it is illegal and immoral."

And counter-productive, because dictators often generate loyalty by standing up to and fighting a wicked external enemy, the Great Satan in some form or other. On this reading, Saddam will have been delighted by Anglo-American resolve to maintain sanctions and patrol the Gulf. Not so much "Oh, what a lovely war!" but "Oh, what a lovely enemy!"

It has been a strange few days for this country. We really need to understand why we received scarcely any backing from countries with whom we have much in common, and whose leaders and citizens are in constant touch with us. What do they perceive which we do not? What have we understood which they have failed to comprehend? What is the meaning of this episode, where nothing rings true?

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Protectionism may follow the euro

THE ADVOCACY of European integration has gained much from its alliance with the free trade doctrine derived from Ricardo, and which proved such a powerful intellectual weapon in the 19th century. Even before the creation of the European Economic Community, the European Payments Union was designed to facilitate trade. Then the Economic Community itself had as one of its major initial objectives the removal of tariffs between the members. Although this was strikingly - and speedily successful - it soon became apparent that "non-tariff barriers" - meaning, principally, product quality and safety regulation - were imposing costs in trade of the same type as tariffs previously had.

Thus the Internal Market Programme, or the "1992 Project" as it came to be known, was devised to remove these barriers as well. Monetary Union should be seen as a further step along this road in two respects. First, the removal of transactions costs in trade eliminates one further barrier. But second, it has become commonplace in Continental

Europe to argue that the completion of the internal market makes monetary union urgent because in its absence, countries are likely to seek to use exchange rate depreciations to increase their export market. Thus, exchange rate protection is seen to be the new threat, once non-tariff barriers have been removed. The same basic argument is applied to the Social Chapter, and most recently to tax harmonisation.

One can hardly fail to be impressed by these developments in Europe. The achievement of such a high degree of free trade is impressive in its own right and - at least from a certain perspective - one must be impressed by the depth of integration which has proven so welcome to much of the Continent. However, the outlook for free trade may not be so positive. On the course on which the European Union is heading, it is in danger of playing into the hands of protectionist elements. This is by no means exclusively a consequence of monetary union, but it is significantly so, and the dangers of a substantial move towards protectionism grow as integration deepens. Nor is



PODIUM

JAMES FORDER
From the annual
Politica Lecture by the economist at 2 Carlton House Terrace, Pall Mall, London

there anything uniquely European in the dangers. Nation states are subject to many of the same pressures, but I believe the European Union is poorly placed to deal with them, and consequently, more likely to be susceptible to them.

The history of European integration reveals that the member states continue to perceive an interest in protectionism. In the celebrations that attended the success of the

1992 Project's removal of non-tariff barriers, a question rarely asked was why such a programme was necessary. Or alternatively, why had non-tariff barriers not been removed along with tariff barriers in the early 1960s, if they were agreed to be equivalent in their effects?

The answer is that non-tariff barriers only became a substantial problem after the removal of tariffs. It does not take much imagination to see that they also became a problem because of the removal of tariffs. The problem was that the means of protection (tariffs) had been removed, but the motives for it (whatever precisely they may be) had not.

So it should be recognised that the creation of the Customs Union - although surely desirable - operated in part in the manner of treating symptoms. The underlying causes of protection remained.

Europe has been blighted by unemployment throughout the 1980s and 1990s. The causes of this can be argued about. One popular view is that a "rigidity" of labour markets is to blame. I find it difficult to take that seriously since the extent to which any European labour

market is more rigid now than in the 1960s must be very limited. An alternative explanation is that the policy framework adopted by most countries early in the 1980s, and subsequently written into the Maastricht Treaty, has done more or less permanent damage to labour markets - and such excessive concern with inflation is to be avoided in future.

Whatever the explanation of unemployment, however, one cannot escape the fact that it creates the political circumstances which are favourable to protectionism. In recent years, most of Continental Europe has been heading towards monetary union, and in most countries this has been a popular objective. Political elites have succeeded in arguing that the pain of the Maastricht process must be endured in order for the prize to be won.

Well, the prize is about to be won, and it will certainly result in a quick fall in unemployment. It remains to be seen what the popular reaction to this will be, but it is difficult to rule out a great deal of pressure for protectionism to safeguard jobs and create new ones.

Fairy lights and surgical strikes



JOHN WALSH
Who can see the vivid tracer-fire and not think of it as our gift of Christmas illuminations to Saddam?

"SHE CHANGES her expression/ And puts on smy-ull/ Baby Expressions." trill the children as we thread our way through the crush in Hamleys. They are singing an advertising jingle off the telly. Baby Expressions is apparently a new doll of mercurial disposition whose face successively radiates fear, loathing, suspicion, hatred, depression and wind while your children are playing with it. Despite its violent mood-swings (which, if it were a real kid, would make you suspect it of being on drugs), it's what Clementine, aged three, most wants for Christmas.

I try to explain to her that a doll is not supposed to have an emotional range; that it is a neutral template upon which to project certain role-playing emotions of one's own; that it is merely a plastic homunculus created to encourage an infant's child-rearing instincts. Clementine regards me steadily. She is obviously impressed by my confident grasp of toy psychology. Then she sticks out her quivering lower lip like an otapi and her blue eyes fill with tears.

"But it's niffice," she cries, as stubborn as Saddam Hussein in Violet Elizabeth Bott ringtons. My otherwise charming daughter has suddenly turned into Baby Expressions (though without the smy-ull) and frankly, they deserve each other.

She's also keen on Dentist Barbie, the latest incarnation of the slender plastic dreamboat who (a tiny disclaimer on the cardboard packaging advises you) "cannot stand up unaided". We have all, I think, been out with girls like that. I'm just surprised at this new turn in her restless professional career. After being a doctor, a policewoman and an Olympic skier, she's now eschewed the more modern options of Spin Doctor Barbie (those boring Armani suits would never do) and PR Executive Barbie (too many hats, real and metaphorical) and plumped for dentistry, which gives her the chance to wear a gleaming white uniform and wield a little battery of probes and mouthwash glasses.

Dolls apart, Christmas shopping has been a learning curve of nomenclature. I have schlepped the streets like the Ancient Mariner asking strangers if they've heard of the Nerf Eagle-Eye, a gun of spectacular proportions upon which my son's festive equilibrium depends. Ignorant as a yule log when it comes to computer games, I've caught up with the Play Station empire at last and its excitable personnel - like Crash Bandicoot, a name Mervyn Peake would have been proud to invent. Until last week, the bandicoot was an insectivorous and herbivorous marsupial of the genus - game; its names derives, I need hardly remind you, from the Telegu word



Disabled Barbie, accompanied by two others of the Barbie range, might make a topical Christmas gift

pandikolou meaning "pig-rat". Well forget that. It now has a new global identity as a hyperactive cartoon rat who rides around on motor bikes looking for jewels and blasting anyone who gets in the way.

And there's that other word. Along Regent Street, the overhead illuminations inform the children that Christmas is the season to be "Tango'd". What does it mean, Dad? It means, my dears, that the point of the festive season is apparently for its celebrants to become intoxicated with fizzy orange drinks. Can this be true? Four years ago, when the Christmas lights featured characters from *Aladdin* to advertise the newly-released Disney movie, I rang the Association of Oxford Street Shop-owners to ask how they'd allowed it to happen.

"But *Aladdin* is terribly Christmassy," the lady PR said.

"Madam," I replied coldly, "*Aladdin* is from *The Arabian Nights*, a book of Persian fairy tales translated into Arabic in AD 850. It's about as Christmassy as the Sphinx."

"Oh," she said, regally, "but, you know, Widow Twankey and all that."

The fact that Disney had handed over a colossal wedge of cash for letting the Genie gatecrash the crib, as it were, wasn't mentioned. And now we shake our heads about the Tango sponsorship as if it weren't the natural consequence of commercial spon-

sorship. In my view, we should simply congratulate whichever marketing genius was responsible for ensuring that nobody will ever utter the name "Tango" again without a grimace of distaste.

BUT AS one races around town, getting and spending, noting with amusement this gross innovation, that amusing toy, everything seems to turn into a mirror of the events in the Middle East. You don't have to be a connection-hungry poet to find awful correspondences between trivial matters here and terrible events there. Who can look at the vivid tracer-fire, the after-burners of missiles and the crimson striations in the night sky over Baghdad and not think of them as our present of Christmas illuminations to the back-sliding infidel?

Look at the face of five-year-old Susan Jasiri in a Baghdad hospital with her head swathed in muslin and it's clear: 'tis the season to be bandaged. After the PM's assurances about the Iraqi leader's continued demonic intentions, Saddam Hussein becomes a moustachioed Crash Bandicoot, hunting down the sacred jewels of oil and land. Listen to the US Chief of Staff's lectures about the surgical precision of cruise missiles and an image lodges in your head of a juvenile war-monger at the Pentagon,

his thumbs working away at a Play Station console, sending 200 Tomahawks across a TV screen and marvelling at the realism of the destruction that ensues. Just trying to buy a Nerf Eagle-Eye gun fills your head with that endless mantra: "weapons of mass destruction". You can't, any more, tell the lady from the Oxford Street Association that the Arab world is nothing to do with Christmas when your dinner-party companions speculate whether bombing the Middle East during Ramadan would be the equivalent of their bombing us during the Queen's Speech. Even when they decided to cease the raids at the weekend, it felt as if we were just waiting for the next build-up, the next inspection-team report, the next presidential phone call. It will probably take about a year. We can do this all over again as a seasonal chore, like pulling the Christmas tree lights out of their box in the attic.

In his address to the nation on Friday, Saddam Hussein thanked the early-warning-system technologists who anticipated the first wave of US missiles, and called them "the grandchildren of Zarqaa al-Yamama", a famous Iraqi seer who could see things at a great distance. So could Nostradamus, who prophesied that Armageddon would fall at the end of the second millennium. I've never known a more unsettling time to be sending greetings

cards invoking "peace on earth, goodwill to all men", when the TV is hiccupping with threats, and the rumble of B-52 bombers punctuates the *Nine O'Clock News*.

THE CHRISTMAS spirit does not, apparently, work overtime. Four days ago, I ordered the turkey and smoked ham from Hester's, the marvellous bespoke hatcher's shop beside Vauxhall Gardens. The boss and I exchanged badinage. He reminisced about the biggest turkey that had ever passed through his hands - 69lbs, he said, and the only oven large enough to take it was the ancestral furnace at Westminster's Children Hospital. I bought some sausage meat with chestnuts. He threw in some chipolatas. We couldn't have been friendlier. It was a Pickwickian scene to gladden the heart.

"Goodbye," he said at last, "and in case I don't see you again, merry Christmas."

"But we'll see each other next week," I replied, "when I come to pick the bird up."

The butcher looked at me sadly.

"By Tuesday it'll be chaos in 'ere: 15lb turkeys all over the place. We'll all be far too growly to be nice to customers."

So, in the same tradition of curmudgeonly realism - before things get too fraught and snappish in the land of deadlines, happy Christmas to all in Readerland.

RIGHT OF REPLY

HAROLD W RUBIN

A London gallery owner responds to Tom Lubbock's 'Critical Condition' article on the state of the visual arts in Tuesday's *Independent*

AS A London gallery owner, I should be qualified to answer Tom Lubbock's article on criticism. I have designed numerous galleries, I have been a curator and I am (once again) a dealer. I own many works of art. However, I am not rich, nor have many of the persons to whom I have sold art been rich, unless, in the words of Bernard Barruch, "being rich is having a dollar more than you can spend".

What Mr Lubbock has done is to compound the myth and misunderstanding about how and why art is exhibited and who is concerned with it. No, very rarely will a review help to sell much of the art it discusses. Taking his premise further, I know that it would be cheaper and less work if I dealt privately and avoided having a gallery open to the public. My desire for his review or that of others is for the artist's sake. Many artists whose work I have shown are more anxious for that word than for the sales which might help support them financially. Time after time I have to explain how hard I have tried to make contact and been ignored. At last there has been some explanation as to how the chosen ones are selected.

Admittedly, there are so many galleries and so many artists that getting a few words in print is doubtless as rare as winning the Lottery. The purpose of an exhibition is that an artist will see and evaluate his own work in having it arranged together in an environment other than his own workshop.

I know from experience how the work will change and develop after such a showing. One painter answered the question of who he painted for with "Myself and 12 friends." Could a critic's role be that of helping find those friends as his contribution and responsibility?

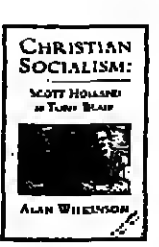
Every so often one sees or hears of a sceptic visitor who wakes to an awareness he has never experienced before when looking at an exhibition. It is nice to encourage these souls.

In search of Christian values

AS ALAN Wilkinson reports in the penultimate chapter of *Christian Socialism*, surveys show that the Prime Minister's Christian commitment is one of the best known facts about him. This book is written to describe and evaluate the distinctively socialist strand of Christian social concern, which goes back in this country to the early days of the 19th century.

I encountered this tradition when it was at its most publicly influential, in the middle of the Second World War. As a boy of 17, I attended the much-reported 1942 meeting in the Albert Hall when Archbishop Temple and Sir Stafford Cripps launched an overtly Christian campaign for moral and social renewal after the war. In that same year Temple, as Archbishop of Canterbury, published a Penguin Special on Christianity and the social order. It sold 139,000 copies and was re-published in 1976 with a foreword by Sir Edward Heath. Temple said that the widespread sales were because "everyone is planning the good world which we hope to see when the war is over".

At the end of the war, while still serving in the army in India, I also was looking forward to this "good world" when Attlee was elected Labour prime minister. I rejoiced in the opportunity to implement the Beveridge Report, and to carry



MONDAY BOOKS

CHRISTIAN SOCIALISM: SCOTT HOLLAND TO TONY BLAIR
BY ALAN WILKINSON. SCM PRESS. £14.95
THE NEW POLITICS: CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING FOR THE 21ST CENTURY
EDITED BY PAUL VALLEY. SCM PRESS. £14.95

forward a vision of social organisation related to Christian and humanist understanding of community and mutually responsible citizenship.

Beveridge attended Balliol College, Oxford, at the beginning of this century with William Temple and the noted Christian socialist teacher and writer RH Tawney. Tawney made a notable (though critical, for he was no utopian) contribution to Christian socialist thought in a series of books such as *The Acquisitive Society*, *Equality*, and the classic *Religion and the Rise of Capitalism*. The public and political influence of this Balliol trio was at its height in that post-war enthusiasm, which I shared, for Christian socialism and a welfare state. Since then, much has changed. As reported by Wilkinson, in the

1980s I found myself confronting Thatcherism for its idolatrous belief in the free market and its offensive refusal to face the task of providing effective transitional care for the victims of capitalism's "creative gales of destruction" (even if that destruction was necessary, and in the long run hopeful). Wilkinson locates all this in an interesting and detailed account of the many-stranded developments of Christian socialism in the UK. He is wisely critical, prudentially concerned with a proper assessment of some aspects of Victorian values and the values of the market, reasonably doubtful about some aspects of New Labour, and with a sharp eye for the romantic Utopian tendencies in much Christian social thought.

He also reports some quotable remarks, of which my favourite is that of the Reverend Samuel Barnett, who founded Toynbee Hall in the East End in 1884. He argued that the state should help make society more equal by redistributive taxation. Barnett was wont to remark: "God loveth a cheerful tax-payer." Clearly a text to be commended to Messrs Blair and Brown.

In *The New Politics*, Paul Valley has edited a competent account of the social teachings of the Popes, from Leo XIII in 1891 to John Paul II's seven documents between 1979 and 1995. The editor contributes a stimulating survey by way of introduction, a strong concluding chapter on "John Paul II and The New Millennium", and an epilogue "Towards a New Politics - Catholic social teaching in a pluralist society".

The latter ought to be required reading for all men and women who see their faith as inescapably involved in social and political action. This essay - and indeed the entire book - provide powerful philosophical and moral points of significance to all humanists who search for uni-



Church-goer Tony Blair

David Rose

versally shareable, and realistically hopeful, values. In between are chapters moving chronologically through the papal writings from six experienced writers, including the director of CAFOD on "Looking out on the World's Poor" the director of the Catholic Institute for International Relations on "People before Profit" and Clifford Longley on "Structures of sin and the free market". Taken together, they build into a remarkably sustained argument for an authoritative approach to social problems.

Alas, they do not settle the issue of how any religious body or person can claim to be right on vital issues when all churches and their representatives have obviously been wrong in the past on aspects of thinking, morals and actions. But both books highlight the fact that we Christians have something vital both to say, and to live up to. They challenge Christians to contribute more effectively to keeping our 21st-century world open to a sustainable, shareable and hopeful future.

DAVID JENKINS

The reviewer was Bishop of Durham, 1984-1994

MONDAY POEM

CALAIS
BY GLYN MAXWELL

They tin-opened his head.
Apparently it said
CALAIS across his brain
in red. Which should explain
the puzzlement and pain
and focus that he felt,
that afternoon he smelt
its fuel-and-fishy air,
then mull'd it over in a square

like one whom little girls
untasselling their hair
in French and combing it to curls
adore when he's thirteen.

who wonders what on earth they mean
and guesses and is wrong,
goes pink and carries on,
finds the ferry gone.

Our poems until 8 January come from the 10 volumes shortlisted for this year's TS Eliot Prize, to be announced on 11 January. Glyn Maxwell's 'The Breakage' is published by Faber (£7.99)

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Thomas in his uniform as Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, House of Lords (1992-95)

Admiral Sir Richard Thomas

RICHARD THOMAS joined the Royal Navy in 1951, when its distillation and digestion of the lessons of the Second World War were being interrupted by Korea. He left it 40 years later as the Cold War was ending.

The Cod Wars were the nearest he got to actual hostility, but he had a full, interesting and rewarding career, within the service for most of the time, but latterly as its representative – and that of the UK – in two key Nato posts. When he retired, he had the good fortune that another career, shorter but no less rewarding, was waiting for him at the Palace of Westminster.

The son of a naval officer, Thomas joined the Navy from Downside. He lived the rest of his life very much in accordance with the tenets of its teaching. He was one of the happiest husbands and fathers; his entry in *Who's Who* testifies that his only recreation was his family. He was soon at sea in the old *Illustrations*, of Taranto fame but by 1951 the Home Fleet training carrier, and then in another veteran of wartime building, the cruiser *Gambica*.

Five years into his career, he started his professional acquaintance with the world outside the Navy as Flag Lieutenant to the Commander-in-Chief of the old East Indies station. Then came a succession of small ship appointments – navigator of a frigate (*Eastbourne*), watchkeeper in a destroyer (*Crossbow*), command of a landing ship (*Gutierrez*), and still a Lieutenant, a coastal minesweeper (*Wolverton*).

Then in 1962 came the benchmark of an appointment to HMS *Britannia*. An early tendency to acerbity and impatience had disappeared with years and experience, and an especially distinguished execution of his duties as second in command of the frigate *Thray* led to swift promotion to Commander and to the command of the destroyer *Troubridge* (1966-68).

This had been a good start to a career, with an abundance of sea time, but Thomas's next three appointments, i.e. the remaining six years in the normal zone for promotion to Captain, were all to be spent largely ashore. The deployment and training of seaman ratings kept him

busy – there were 12,000 of them in those days, and he made some improvements to the system.

Then came a stint on the staff of the Flag Officer Flotilla 1 (one of the three divisions of the Fleet), followed by a move to Rosyth as Staff Officer Operations to FOSNI, the Flag Officer, Scotland and Northern Ireland. That job was dominated by the second Cod War of 1972, a large-scale and serious fishing dispute in Northern waters, ironically between two Nato allies and involving alas several collisions as nets were cut or ships manoeuvred to avoid such an offence.

Thomas was much involved, and revealed a steadiness under pressure and an attention to current details

Flag Officer Second Flotilla (1965-67), which he thoroughly enjoyed, especially in seeing whether his staff could be reduced to a number which could realistically accompany him to sea; this was a reflection of his second appointment as a Commander.

He could have retired then after a good career: There had been the long apprenticeship at sea, then, promotion assured, a series of testing and rewarding appointments, concentrated on the personnel side, which led to the flag list and a good command afloat.

For the Navy of those days, which was beginning to dwindle in ships and in people, that was good going. Their Lordships were still teased by Parkinson's Law, but at the same time

loyal to the British government without being disloyal to the Alliance to whose staff they had appointed him. Here again the times were against him; resources were scarce and diminishing, and the end of the Cold War brought a false optimism with which his military mind had to contend. Experience has already vindicated his appreciations and efforts.

Thomas was created KCB in 1987. In 1991 he left the Navy and was appointed Gentleman Usher to the Black Rod in 1992, a post which carried with it the appointment of Serjeant-at-Arms of the House of Lords and Secretary to the Lord Great Chamberlain. All these offices he delighted in, though relieved that the second was more ceremonial than disciplinary. The duties have extended since the 16th century and now a staff of 80 deals with all administrative work in the House of Lords.

Richard Thomas was well suited to lead such a team, and in his tenure proceedings were modified and modernised. He had a stroke in 1993, which left him with something of a limp, but his mind and sense of humour were unimpaired, and when he returned to work his devotion to duty was an example of self-discipline much admired. It was the after-effects which hastened his death this month, and shortened his first real retirement. He was appointed KCVO when he left Westminster in 1995, and the Catholic Church recognised his life's work with a papal knighthood in the Order of Pope Pius IX.

A. B. SAINSBURY

William Richard Scott Thomas, naval officer; born 22 March 1932; OBE 1974; Directorate of Naval Plans, MoD 1974-77; CO HMS *Fearless* 1977-78; Director, Office Appointments (Seamen) 1980-83; Naval Secretary 1983-85; Flag Officer Second Flotilla 1985-87; KCB 1987; Deputy, Scotland 1987-89; UK Military Representative to Nato 1989-92; Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, and Serjeant-at-Arms; House of Lords, and Secretary to the Lord Great Chamberlain 1992-95; KCVO 1995; married 1959 Paddy Cullen (two sons, four daughters, and two sons deceased); died 13 December 1998.

At Nato, Thomas had the singularly difficult task of being loyal to the British government without being disloyal to the Alliance to whose staff they had appointed him

which did not distract him from remembering to think of future probabilities; because of this, he was appointed OBE. Most important, he was promoted – there were too many deserving candidates to allow for many over-zone promotions in those days – and it was as a Captain that he went to the Ministry of Defence, of which he had happily seen little so far, to assist in the Polaris development.

Captain Thomas went to sea with the Commando assault ship *Fearless* before attending the RCDS course of 1979; he had passed the RN staff course in 1963 and the Joint Services counterpart three years later. It was then that he was wisely directed back to the personnel side of the Navy, first as Director of Seaman Officers' Appointments (1980-82) and then, as a Rear Admiral and the Naval Secretary responsible for the selection, employment and promotion of officers of all specialisations.

His last command at sea was as

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Antonio Ordóñez

A COUPLE of distinguished, if light-hearted, Spanish philosophers recently conducted a conference entitled "The Bullfighting Art of Antonio Ordóñez" at Madrid's illustrious Fine Arts Circle. The matador himself attended on the last day, and when the participants had concluded their analysis of his artistic merit, he asked to say a few words. He began: "After listening to these friends, who know nothing of bullfighting..."

The exchange – taken in good part on all sides – revealed both the sharp humour of this hero of what Spain's traditional newspapers still call the "fiesta nacional", and the deep cultural importance that bullfighting still enjoys in Spain. Ordóñez was one of its last remaining legends.

He won fame in international literary circles in the 1950s through his friendship with Orson Welles and Ernest Hemingway. But in Spain in the 1950s and 1960s he became a myth, adored by the public and revered by fellow bullfighters for his bravery and the beauty of his art.

He was born in the southern Spanish town of Ronda – bullfighting's ancestral home – in 1932, the son of Cayetano Ordóñez, himself a well known bullfighter. Antonio's four brothers, Cayetano, Juan, Pepe and Alfonso all became bullfighters. Young Antonio faced his first calf in 1945 and made his debut in the suit of lights in a corrida in Logroño, La

Rioja in 1948, aged 16. He fought 76 bulls in his first season. A year later he suffered his first serious goring, in Barcelona.

In June 1951 he qualified as a matador and the following year, in a sensational season, he triumphed in Spain's principal bullfighting festivals, the Feria de Seville, and the

writer, who joined the two men's road show, describes their progress from bullfighting to bullfighting across Spain throughout the 1959 season. The gruelling schedule prompted Ordóñez's famous remark: "no one can become a bullfighter unless he can master the art of sleeping in the car". Compared with Dominguín's

ther's American friend "Papa Ernesto".

Later he became friendly with Orson Welles, who became so infatuated with the bullfighting world that the film director ordered his remains to be buried in Ordóñez's "finca" in Ronda. "One day I'll explain how that came about," the bullfighter once promised, but he never did explain.

Ordóñez always regretted that a bullfighter had no control over the beasts he fought, especially in important bullfights like Madrid. He recalled a lunch in Bordeaux in 1952 with the pianist Artur Schnabel who found it inexplicable that a torero could not choose his bulls as a pianist chose his piano. Ordóñez said: "It's as if someone told Paco de Lucia just before a concert: 'sorry, not your guitar, this one'".

He had one brush with death away from the bullring. In 1966, while driving a car near Cadiz he crashed and his passenger was killed. Ordóñez was tried for homicide through careless driving, but was acquitted.

Ordóñez cut off his pony-tail – as the saying goes – on 12 August 1971, although he had announced his retirement 10 years earlier. He devoted himself to breeding bulls on the ranch he had acquired in 1962, and became the owner and manager of the bullring in Ronda. There he organised the annual "corridos Gayescos" –

cold and ruthless technique. Ordóñez, though unaffected and elegant in style, burned with emotion and commitment. Hemingway was struck by Ordóñez's determined passion to win. The writer was devastated to learn later that Ordóñez and his brother-in-law had hipped up the bitterness of their rivalry for the benefit of the American public.

Hemingway came to know Ordóñez's father, known as El Niño de la Palma, when he fought at the bull-running festival in Pamplona in the 1920s. Young Antonio called his fa-

Hemingway was devastated to discover that Ordóñez and Dominguín had hyped up the bitterness of their rivalry for the benefit of the American public

San Isidro festival in Madrid. He fought more than 2,000 bulls during 30 years.

In 1953 he married Carmen Gonzalez Lucas, better known as Carmena Dominguín, daughter of the torero Domingo Dominguín and sister of three matadors, including the most famous of the dynasty, Luis Miguel Dominguín, who was for years Ordóñez's fiercest rival.

This battle between the two matadores in the late Fifties inspired Hemingway's report for *Life* magazine that he worked up into the book *The Dangerous Summer*. The



Ordóñez (left) after being injured in the bullring at Dax, 1959, with Dominguín at right

bullfights in the style and with the costumes immortalised by the 18th-century master Francisco de Goya.

His two daughters, Carmen Cayetana and Ana Belen, each married bullfighters. Last October, Carmen's son Francisco Rivera, also a bullfighter, married Maria Eugenia Martinez de Irujo, daughter of the Duchess of Alba, one of Spain's

grandest grandees, in a wedding broadcast live on Spanish television. The proud grandfather was too ill with cancer to attend.

The conservative Labour Minister Javier Arenas and the Peruvian writer Mario Vargas Llosa were among those paying respects to Ordóñez whose body lay in state in Seville town hall yesterday. Later

this week his ashes will be scattered in the arena of Ronda bullring.

ELIZABETH NASH

Antonio Ordóñez Araujo, matador; born Ronda, Spain 16 February 1932; married 1953 Carmen Gonzalez Lucas (deceased); two daughters, 1953 Pilar Lezcano; died Seville 19 December 1998.

Susan Bicknell



Affinity for Bach's music

SUSAN BICKNELL was a great champion of the viola. She performed the entire repertoire for the instrument, taught viola with great dedication at the Royal Junior College of Music and the Welsh College of Music and Drama and had started to record the works of Brahms and Schumann. Her need to get as close as possible to the heart of music also led her to embrace the period instrument movement and she performed frequently with London Baroque and the English Concert.

She was, with me, a founder member of the New Mozart Ensemble and of the Festival de St Agre in France, and was a loyal and inspiring colleague in cham-

ber music, contributing many ideas and insights to help enrich our performances.

Following her Wigmore Hall debut in 1981 Bicknell gave concerts all over the world as a soloist, as guest with the Chilingirian and Allegri String Quartets, as member of the Amati Quartet and with the Academy of St Martin in the Fields, the English Chamber Orchestra and the London Philharmonic.

She was based in Florence for a number of years and on her return became principal viola of the London Mozart Players. She also delighted in opera and was a great champion of the now defunct Kent Opera which she was determined should continue to exist

despite government axing of its funding.

An eminent viola player, Bicknell was accepted originally as a violin student at the Royal College of Music at the early age of 16. She later studied in Brussels. It was Orre Pernel, the great Bach specialist, who persuaded Bicknell to switch to the viola and who became perhaps her greatest musical inspiration. The great affinity Bicknell felt for Bach's music is embodied in the fine recording she made of the Cello Suites in 1996.

Here she was satisfied that she had made a true musical contribution and that she had also united certain of her own religious and practical ideas in her playing. She

made sure that proceeds from the sale of this CD went to the Edmund Emery Fund for cancer research, a cause which was particularly important to her.

Sue Bicknell was a deeply spiritual person. Her own Christianity sustained her throughout her life as did her knowledge of Eastern religions, particularly Zen and Tibetan Buddhism. She also gained understanding of mathematical philosophy, Newton's laws and Einstein's theories, and delighted in making connections with her own artistic and spiritual understanding.

Her range of knowledge and her appetite for it was wide. She read extensively not only in English but also in French, Italian and ancient Greek,

which she had studied in order to make her own New Testament translations.

MELVYN TAN

Susan Bicknell's talents as a teacher and performer were matched by a remarkable generosity of spirit. writes Jeffrey Tobias. It was typical of her that even during her final month of life she arranged for her string quartet, the Amati, to play at the Middlesex Hospital to help raise funds for cancer research.

This late in the day, she could barely feel the fingers of her left hand yet she somehow retained sufficient dexterity to sustain her wonderful technique. She never

complained throughout a lengthy illness lasting a decade, and in the latter years her professional ambition if anything seemed to accelerate: chamber works, baroque concerts and two unforgettable performances, as soloist, of Berlioz's *Harold in Italy*.

Eighteen months before she died, when faced with the inevitable, she achieved her lifelong wish to transcribe and record three of the Bach unaccompanied cello suites on the viola, leaving us a novel and permanent insight into her unique vision.

Susan Margaret Bicknell, viola player; born Farnborough, Surrey 5 August 1948; died London 20 November 1998.



Higginbotham (left) applauds as Nelson Mandela holds up his honorary Doctor of Law degree at Harvard University, September 1998. AP

A. Leon Higginbotham

A. LEON HIGGINBOTHAM was one of the most distinguished American jurists of his generation. His life as a lawyer was devoted to advancing the cause of civil rights and racial integration. He personified that cohort of African Americans who came of age in the United States in the 1950s and 1960s when the Supreme Court decision in the case of *Brown v Board of Education* was revolutionising race relations.

Indeed, he was an outstanding example of the whole purpose of integration, which was to ensure that a black man or woman with the right stuff could enjoy the kind of career talented white Americans took for granted. Born in modest circumstances in Trenton, New Jersey in 1928, he went to segregated schools and won a place in a predominantly white college at Purdue, Indiana, in 1944.

Here he experienced the kind of crude anti-black discrimination routine in all parts of the United States at that time. Nevertheless, he graduated BA from Antioch in 1949 and took a law degree at Yale Law School, where he won academic awards, in 1952. Few black students at that time graduated from such prestigious institutions.

Seeking work as a lawyer in Philadelphia, he ran into serious discrimination for the first time. When one of the city's top law firms asked him to attend an interview, it was clear they had assumed that a Yale graduate named Higginbotham would be white. The lawyer who interviewed him agreed his credentials were impressive, but then added, "Of course, there's nothing I can do for you."

The "of course" was what hurt and what characterised race relations in the

United States on the eve of the Supreme Court's landmark decision in the *Brown* case, which was published in May 1954. This decision, in which the Court voted 9-0, declared segregated schools unconstitutional, undermining segregation in every section and region of America, not just in education in the South, but in housing, employment, politics and the law right across the nation.

It took another 20 years for segregation to end, years of legal and political struggle historians call the civil rights movement, and in this struggle lawyers like Higginbotham played a crucial part. In 1954 he joined the Philadelphia law firm of Norris, Green, Harris & Higginbotham, became the city's assistant district attorney and then president of the Philadelphia chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, which had led the struggle to undermine the legal basis of segregation in America since the 1920s.

In 1964, President John Kennedy appointed him as the first black lawyer to serve on the Federal Communications Commission. He was 36. Three years later, Kennedy's successor, Lyndon Johnson, considered putting him on the United States Supreme Court in 1967 before naming Thurgood Marshall as the first African American to serve on the highest court in the nation.

Higginbotham remained an unambiguous champion of integration, which had to be enforced by law, but when Richard Nixon was president, between 1969 and 1975, such ideas fell out of favour. As a lawyer, teacher and legal scholar Higginbotham's influence continued to increase so that in 1977 Pres-

ident Jimmy Carter appointed him to the federal district court of appeals in Philadelphia, where he could rule on the constitutionality of civil cases.

This date was significant. In 1977-78 the US Supreme Court heard and decided the landmark case of *Regents of the University of California v Bakke*. In a divided and complicated decision the court ruled 5-4 that, contrary to the *Brown* decision 24 years earlier, educational discrimination in favour of blacks was still discrimination, and that preference systems or admission quotas to achieve racial balance on university courses were unconstitutional.

This saw the start of a generation in which positive discrimination, or affirmative action as it was known, came increasingly under attack, not least from black lawyers with conservative views, like Clarence Thomas, appointed by President Bush to the US Supreme Court to succeed Thurgood Marshall in 1991.

Two years earlier Higginbotham had become chief judge on the Philadelphia appeals court and now enjoyed a wide reputation as scholar and lawyer. When Thomas's appointment was confirmed, after hearings in which it was alleged he had sexually harassed another black lawyer named Anita Hill, Higginbotham wrote a celebrated open letter to Thomas asking him to consider the historical roots from which American racism had grown, and emphasising the importance of law in defeating racial discrimination.

Justice Thomas was deaf to such arguments, as were increasing numbers of Americans. The era of universal acceptance of affirmative action was over. "I witnessed the birth of racial justice

in the Supreme Court," Higginbotham explained in the *New York Times* magazine in January this year. "Now, after 45 years as a lawyer, judge and law professor, I sometimes feel as if I am watching justice die." This view was widely shared by other liberal Americans, whatever the colour of their skin.

In his last years, Higginbotham's fame as a legal scholar and tireless advocate of civil rights increased. Thus in 1995 he received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, America's highest civilian honour, while only two weeks before he died he was one of a handful of legal scholars asked to testify before the House Judiciary Committee about the proposed impeachment of President Clinton.

His advice, as in everything he said and wrote, was concise and clear. Even if Clinton had committed the perjury of which the Starr report indicted him, not all perjury was equal under the law. Lies about his relationship with Monica Lewinsky were more like lies to avoid a speeding ticket than lies about treason or bribery, which were impeachable offences. Perjury about something which was not even a misdemeanour could not justify removing a president from office. In the next few months we shall see whether Congress is as deaf to Leon Higginbotham's advice as Justice Thomas was to the advice he received in 1991.

PATRICK RENSHAW

Aloysius Leon Higginbotham, lawyer, born Trenton, New Jersey 25 February 1928; twice married (two sons, two daughters); died Boston, Massachusetts 14 December 1998.

GAZETTE

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

DEATHS

NORBERT MILLER: Hannah, born in Vienna on 25 February 1916, died peacefully in London after a short illness on 17 December. Daughter of Otto and Erna Nussbaum, loving wife of the late Martin Miller and wonderful mother of Daniel. She will be greatly missed by those who knew, loved and were inspired by her. Donations to Help the Aged. For further information call 0181 292 8008.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am.

Announcements for BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, In memoriam) are charged at £2.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette announcements (notices, functions, forthcoming marriages, Marriages) are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra.

BIRTHDAYS

Mr Alexander Bennett, former chairman, Whitbread and Co, 85; Air Commandant Dame Jean Bromet, former Director of the WRAF 88; Mr Basil Collins, former chairman, Nabisco, 75; Mrs Chris Evert-Lloyd, tennis champion, 44; Miss Jane Fonda, actress, 61; Sir James Hill, former MP 72; Mr Peter Johnson, headmaster, Wrekin College, 51; Sir Frederick Lawton, former Appeal Court judge, 87; Mr Albert Lee, rock guitarist, 55; Mr Geoff Lewis, horse-racing trainer, 63; Mr Wyndham Milligan, former principal, Wolsey Hall, Oxford, 91; Mr Steve Perryman, footballer, 47; Mr Anthony Powell CH, novelist, 98; Mr John Quayle, actor, 60; Sir John Quinlan, former chairman, Barclays Bank, 69; Flight Lieutenant William Reid VC, 77; Brigadier Vera Rooke, former director, Army Nursing Services, 74; Mr Walter Spanghero, rugby player, 55; Mr Greville Starkey, former jockey, 59; Mr Michael Tilson Thomas, conductor, 64; Mr Peter Tinswood, playwright, 62; Sir Cyril Townsend, former MP 61; Mr Doug Walters, cricketer, 53; Dr Alan Wynne Williams

MP, 53; Professor Robert Worcester, chairman, Market & Opinion Research International, 65.

ANNIVERSARIES

Births: Thomas à Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury, 1118; Masaccio (Tommaso di Giovanni), Florentine painter, 1401; Mathurin Regnier, French satirical poet, 1573; Jean Racine, French playwright, 1639; Benoît-Tranquille Berbiguier, French flautist and composer, 1782; Dr Robert Moffat, Scottish missionary and traveller, 1795; Leopold von Ranke, German historian, 1795; Sir Joseph Whitworth Bt, mechanical engineer, 1803; Benjamin Disraeli, First Earl of Beaconsfield, statesman, 1804; Thomas Couture, French painter, 1815; Prince Peter Alekseyevich Kropotkin, Russian anarchist revolutionary and geographer, 1842; Nathaniel (Nat) Gould, racing novelist, 1857; Josef Vissarionovich Dzhugashvili (Joseph Stalin), Soviet leader, 1879; Walter Charles Hagen, golf champion, 1892; Leroy Robertson, composer, 1896; Harry Revel, popular composer and pianist, 1905; Heinrich Böll, German author, 1917; Frank

Hampson, creator of "Dan Dare", 1918.

Deaths: Giovanni Boccaccio, Italian author, 1375; Vicente Joanes, Spanish painter, 1579; Catherine de Braganza, consort of King Charles II, 1705; Bernard de Montfaucon, French critic and classical scholar, 1741; James Parkinson, surgeon and paleontologist, 1824; Niels Wilhelm Gade, Danish composer, 1890; Walter Hines Page, ambassador and editor, 1918; Frank Billings Kellogg, politician, 1937; Francis Scott Key Fitzgerald, novelist, 1940; General George Smith Patton, military leader, 1945; Lewis Terman, psychologist, 1956; Lion Feuchtwanger, German novelist and playwright, 1958; Sir (Jack) John Berry Hobbs, cricketer, 1963.

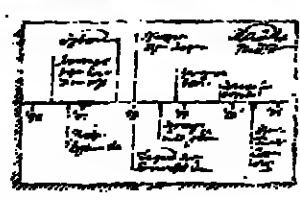
On this day: Richard Coeur de Lion was captured by the Duke of Austria, 1192; the Pilgrim Fathers landed at Plymouth Rock in North America, 1620; in North America, the *Boston Gazette* was first issued, 1719; paper money called *assignats* were issued in France, 1789; the first co-operative store was opened in Rochdale, 1844; anaesthetics were used for the first time in Britain (by Robert Liston), 1846;

Charley's Aunt, the farce by Brandon Thomas, was first performed, 1892; the Port of London Authority was inaugurated, 1908; after a colliery disaster at Pretoria Pit, Bolton, 344 lives were lost, 1910; the first newspaper to publish a crossword puzzle was the *New York World*. This was compiled by Liverpool-born Arthur Wynne, 1913; the premiere of the first full-length full-colour animated cartoon (*Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*) by Walt Disney, took place, 1935; General Charles de Gaulle was elected president of the French Fifth Republic, 1958; the first flight of Man around the moon took place when Apollo 8 was launched, 1969.

Today is the Feast Day of St Anastasius II of Antioch, St Glycerius, St John Vincent, St Peter Canisius and Saints Themistocles & Dioscorus.

LECTURES

Victoria and Albert Museum: Valerie Holman, "Victorian Painting", 3pm. Children's Christmas Lecture at the Royal Society of Arts, London WC2: Dr Richard Wiseman, "Do You Believe in Magic?", 2.30pm.



HISTORICAL NOTES PHYLLIS WILLMOTT

Black stockings filled with goodies

MY MOTHER was born in 1892 in the front downstairs bedroom of an ancient thatched cottage in which many generations of agricultural families must have been born, lived out their lives and died. The cottage (which is no longer there) was in the centre of the Bedfordshire village of Blunham. Opposite stood - and still stands - the ancient church, surrounded by green grass and old tombstones. Along one side of its enclosing wall was the lane which led, under an avenue of lime trees, to the banks of the Ivel.

It was a setting that could not have changed much since Bunyan had applied on behalf of a villager he knew for a licence to preach there in the 17th century. The villager was named John Wright and Bunyan had earlier spent time with him in Bedford jail.

My mother's parents were not natives of Blunham, or even Bedfordshire. The couple had met and married in London where she was a nursery maid and he a plate-layer on the railways. Their union produced 11 children, of whom my mother was the last but one. By the time she was born in the Blunham cottage her older brothers and sisters had already left home, which not only eased the sleeping arrangements (there was only one upstairs bedroom), but of course meant fewer mouths to feed.

It was partly for this reason, but also because her father

had regular and secure employment on the railways, that my mother could look back on what was for the times a relatively affluent childhood. Not sufficiently affluent, however, to be above joining in the gleaning with the other villagers after the harvest. In my mother's earliest years, some of the flour from the gleaning was used to make bread for the family, which was baked twice a week in the "second oven" of the village bakery. The kitchen range installed between the inglenooks of the oakbeamed fireplace was used for week-day dinners: boiled steak and kidney pudding with mashed potatoes and "greens", pork and onion suet roll, "duck-a-nothing" (baked chopped pork, rice and herbs) or "Bedfordshire clangers". And always a pudding - baked rice, or more often bread and butter pudding or boiled treacle pudding - to follow.

It was a heavy diet in which little food came from outside the village, although as the century drew to a close some new foods - such as tinned salmon, treacle and Quaker Oats - appeared. Bananas were a rare treat brought by the brothers from London; lemons were "never seen in the house", and oranges were a once-a-year Christmas luxury.

One Christmas held a particularly vivid memory for my mother. From an early age she had suffered from bad earache, and on Christ-

mas Eve she was crying bitterly with the pain. It was late and her mother brought her downstairs, for her sisters Bertha and Florrie were trying to sleep in the children's bedroom upstairs. Everything was quiet until there was the noise of a cart rumbling by in the dark outside. "Listen!" said my grandmother to her sobbing daughter. "I do believe that could be Father Christmas!" Magically, this must have charmed away the pain, for the next my mother knew was waking in the morning to find her black stocking hanging at the end of the bed, filled with the orange, nuts, sweets and small presents smuggled into the cottage by the older children in preceding weeks.

Sadly, not everyone in those days could hope for black stockings filled with goodies. Poverty was as common the lot of agricultural labourers in Bedfordshire as in most other rural areas. My mother remembered that when the new potatoes came in from her father's allotment her mother would cook a large pot of to put out on her doorstep for the less fortunate village children. In the winter she would fill her baking tins with jacket potatoes. From other accounts, it seems that this sort of help was not at all uncommon.

Phyllis Willmott is the author of *From Rural East Anglia to Suburban London* (Institute of Community Studies, £9.50)

CASE SUMMARIES

21 DECEMBER 1998

THE FOLLOWING notes of judgments were prepared by the reporters of the *All England Law Reports*.

Release dates

R v Governor of Wandsworth Prison, ex p Sorhaino; QBD (Div C) (Simon Brown LJ, Asill J) 14 Dec 1998.

TIME SPENT in custody on remand for offence B, whilst also detained pursuant to a magistrates' court sentence for offence A, was not to be counted towards the serving of the sentence of imprisonment for offence B when the sentence for offence A was quashed on appeal before the defendant had been sentenced to imprisonment for offence B. A sentence once quashed was not void *ab initio*: during the period of sentence A, therefore, the applicant was not in prison "only" by reason of an order of a court made in connection with any proceedings related to sentence B, as would be required by s 67(1A) of the Criminal Justice Act 1967 where that period of time to count towards sentence B. *Peter Duffy QC, Rambert de Mello (Goodall Barnett James, Brighton) for the applicant; Eleanor Grey (Treasury Solicitor) for the respondent.*

Road traffic

DPP v McCarthy; QBD (Div C) (Simon Brown LJ, Asill J) 14 Dec 1998.

A DRIVER having been required to stop following upon a road traffic accident as defined by s 170(2) of the Road Traffic Act 1988 might give the address of a third party provided the address fulfilled the purposes of the section, which was to enable easy

and swift communication between the parties to the accident.

James Maxwell-Scott (E. Edwards Son & Niece, Iford) for the applicant; John McGuinness (CPS, Wood Green) for the prosecution.

Evidence

McCauley v Hope (Carry), third party; CA (Butler-Sloss, Potter LJ, Sir Patrick Russell) 8 Dec 1998.

WHERE A a plaintiff injured in a road traffic accident sought, in proceedings against the defendant, to rely on the defendant's conviction of driving without due care and attention, the plaintiff was not entitled to judgment under RSC Ord 14. The defendant, although admitting the conviction, alleged in reliance on an expert's report that it was erroneous. Section 11(2) of the Civil Evidence Act 1968 provided the clearest possible mandate to a defendant in a road traffic accident case to attack his earlier conviction, provided he had some good cause for so doing, and could discharge the burden of proof to the civil standard. The Ord 14 process was inappropriate in such a case since there were serious issues to be tried. *Elizabeth Gumbel (David Saunders, Ashford) for the plaintiff; Ian McLaren QC, Douglas Herbert (E. Edwards Son & Niece, Iford) for the defendant.*

Discovery

Dubai Aluminium Co Ltd v Al Alawi & Urs; QBD, Commercial Court (Rix J) 3 Dec 1998.

Criminal or fraudulent conduct undertaken for the purposes of litigation fell on the same side of the line as advising on or setting up criminal or

fraudulent transactions yet to be undertaken, as distinct from the entirely legitimate professional business of advising or assisting clients on their past conduct, however iniquitous. Documents and reports generated by such criminal or fraudulent conduct which were relevant to issues in the case were, accordingly, discoverable, falling outside the legitimate area of legal professional privilege.

Mark Pelling (Warner Cranston) for the plaintiff; Clive Freedman QC, Alana Gougey (Philippsohn Crawford Breckwold) for the first defendant.

Sentencing

R v Baker; CA (Crim Div) (Phil LJ, Turner J, Judge Rant QC) 15 Dec 1998.

When imposing a sentence longer than one commensurate with the seriousness of the offence in question in order to protect the public from serious harm from an offender, pursuant to s 32(2)(b) of the Criminal Justice Act 1991, the power of the court to order sentences to run consecutively was not limited. The expression "maximum permitted sentence" applied to the sentence for an individual offence, and provided that did not exceed the permitted maximum, there was no obstacle to aggregating other sentences which did not exceed that maximum. Moreover, there was no obstacle to exercising the power under s 32(2)(b) in an individual sentence imposed consecutively to another sentence on which that power had been exercised.

Michael Thota (Registrar of Criminal Appeals) for the applicant; Brian Albon (Treasury Solicitor) as amicus curiae.

WORDS

CHRISTOPHER HAWTREE

degrade, v.

down a degree or even of ousting. Massinger later wrote of the way in which "thou dost degrade thyself of all the honours Thy

ancestors left thee." In each case, the OED last cites Jowett and Cardinal Newman, which is lofty company for any President. Incidentally, who never Clinton attends a fundraiser at the Sheraton New York, he uses the side-entrance: surely a perilous photo-opportunity: it is hard by the 53rd Street Cigar Bar.

A mother's greatest sacrifice

A FAMILY AFFAIR

Three years ago Geraldine McGrory, 28, became a novice in the enclosed Benedictine order at Tyburn Convent in London where she is called Sister Mary Joseph. Her mother, Margaret McGrory, is a housewife and has 11 children. She lives in a suburb of Birmingham



A child of God: Sister Mary Joseph and her mother Margaret

Kalpesh Lathigra

Sister Mary Joseph

I didn't have a vision or hear voices when I got the calling. Something just quietly changed in my life. I used to be quite materialistic and loved shopping, especially for clothes. But suddenly all these things seemed completely unimportant. I was brought up in a Catholic home with 10 brothers and sisters but I wouldn't say I was particularly religious. I went to Mass every week and said my prayers but in my teens I was just like any other normal young girl. I wanted to leave school, go to university and get a life. I did quite well at school and got into Birmingham University, where I studied law. After that I joined a legal practice and began my law training.

It was after I had been on a trip to Lourdes with my mum that I started to feel differently. She had always wanted to go so it was a bit of a trip of a lifetime for her but I didn't really think much about it. After I came back and returned to work I started going to Mass in my lunch hour, which was pretty weird for me. The feeling started to grow inside me that perhaps I was really cut out for a religious life.

At first I thought it was a phase and that it would pass. I started praying for guidance and went to see my local priest to get advice. I thought I would get some kind of sign or proof that I was on the right track. The priest said if I was waiting for a fax from heaven I'd have a long wait as God doesn't send faxes! So it was quite a long time before I was really sure about it.

It has never occurred to me that I may have made the wrong decision. I never feel I want to be anywhere else because I am so sure I have chosen

the right way of life for me. Whereas my motivation before was to earn money and have a good time, now it is to love God and serve the Church. I don't miss anything about my old life, neither do I feel that my freedom has been curbed.

Of course, I miss my mum and I will be thinking of her at Christmas but I am so involved in the life of the convent I don't have time to dwell on life outside. I have my own room with a bed, a desk and my books. I never get bored.

I get up at five in the morning, work hard at my housekeeping duties all day and go to bed at around 8.30pm. The days and weeks literally fly by - this will be my third Christmas in the convent.

Before I joined and I was thinking everything through, it did cross my mind that I would never marry and have children, which was a shame because I love children - particularly babies.

But if you have a vocation, God does give you the strength to cope. Instead of having children of my own I have got thousands of children in a spiritual sense. In the convent, we are like spiritual mothers, praying for the souls of all the children in the world.

There is a real sense of sisterhood in here. I feel that this is now my family because we all have that spiritual union and devotion to Christ.

I believe that God has a special path for everyone and, at some point in any young Catholic's life, they question themselves and ask whether they want to become a priest or a nun.

It wasn't a difficult choice for me in the end because things seemed to miraculously fall into place. All I did was pray for discernment and everything was revealed.

Margaret

I had very high hopes for Geraldine because she was a very clever child. She was top of her class in everything at school. When she went to university to study law we were all so proud of her. She did well at law college and then began her job in a solicitor's office. She seemed to really enjoy her working life - she was very popular and made friends easily.

About three years ago Geraldine came home to visit for the weekend. She seemed quieter than usual and after a while she told us she had decided to enter an enclosed convent. She said she had thought long and hard about it but she was sure that was what she wanted to do with her life.

At first it was a bit of a shock, and I would never have told her but there was a part of me that was a little bit disappointed because of what she was giving up. I felt she had a good career and could go far. But I do feel very strongly that children should follow their own path in life, so I was also immensely proud of her. In a Catholic family as big as ours it's considered almost an honour if one of your children gets the calling. I suppose you could say that I had secretly harboured some hopes that one of mine would have a vocation.

Although we are a very strong Catholic family and go to church every week, none of our other children has ever shown the slightest desire to go into the Church. In fact, they were probably more shocked about Geraldine's decision than I was. They had never come into contact with nuns and, like many people who only ever see them on the television, probably thought of them as figures of fun. Now that they have seen her way of life they really

appreciate what she is doing. I missed Geraldine dreadfully when she first went in. I still keep her bedroom just as she left it. Some people might think it's like a shrine to her. But it doesn't feel like that. I never entertained any hopes that she would come back but I just couldn't bring myself to change anything. Her books are arranged just as they were. I go in now and then and sit quietly and have a read. It makes me feel close to her.

It's hard for any mother to come to terms with the fact that their daughter is miles away and can't just get away when she wants. I can't just pop up and see her for a cup of tea when I want to. I can't phone her up for a chat like other mothers do. But I do respect the fact that she has given herself to the religious life and, although our relationship is now quite restrictive, it is worth any sacrifices I have had to make. We visit her once a month and she writes us lovely letters.

There is an inner happiness about Geraldine now that I can't explain. Looking back, I think she was probably quite stressed when she was working. She worried endlessly about the state of the world. She felt she wanted to do something positive to help. She really has a very strong belief that dedicating her life to God will make a difference. Convent life suits her very well. She is full of joy and although I know that if she decided tomorrow that she had chosen the wrong path she could leave, I don't think she will. She is very strong-willed and knows her own mind. But if she ever changed her mind she knows that we will always be there for her and support her in her choice.

INTERVIEWS BY
LIZ BESTIC

Why Christmas always turkeys in America

ONE OF the many small mysteries I hoped to resolve when I first moved to England was this: when British people sang "A Wassailing We'll Go", where was it they went, and what exactly did they do when they got there?

Throughout an American upbringing I heard this song every Christmas without ever finding anyone who had the faintest idea of how to go about the obscure and enigmatic business of wassailing. Given the perky lilt of the carol and the party spirit in which it was always sung, it suggested to my youthful imagination rosy-cheeked wench bearing flagons of ale in a scene of general merriment and abandon before a blazing yule log in a hall decked with holly - and, with this in mind, I looked forward to my first English Christmas with a certain frank anticipation. In my house, the most exciting thing you could hope for in the way of seasonal recklessness was being offered a cookie shaped like a Christmas tree.

So you may conceive my disappointment when my first Christmas in England came and went and, not only was there no wassailing to be seen, but no one I quizzed was any the wiser as to its arcane and venerable secrets. In fact, in nearly 20 years in England I never did find anyone who had ever gone a-wassailing, at least not knowingly. Nor while we are at it, did I encounter any mumming, still less any hodenning (a kind of organised group begging for coins with a view to buying drinks at the nearest public house, which I think is an outstanding ideal), or many of the other traditions of an English Christmas that were expressly promised in the lyrics of carols and the novels of Jane Austen and Charles Dickens.

It wasn't until I happened on a copy of TG Crippen's scholarly and ageless *Christmas and Christmas Lore*, published in London in 1923, that I finally found that wassail was originally a salutation. From the Old Norse *ves heil*, it means "in good health". In Anglo-Saxon times,

according to Crippen, it was customary for someone offering a drink to say "Wassail!" and for the recipient to respond "Drinkhall!" and for the participants to repeat the exercise until comfortably horizontal.

It is clear from Crippen's tome that in 1923 this and many other agreeable Christmas customs were still commonly encountered in Britain. Now, alas, they appear to be gone for good.

Even so, Christmas in Britain is wonderful, far better than in America, and for all kinds of reasons. To begin with, in Britain - or at least in England - you still pretty much pack all your festive excesses (eating, drinking, gift-giving, more eating and drinking) into Christmas, whereas we in America spread ours out over three separate holidays.



In America, the big eating holiday is Thanksgiving, at the end of November. Thanksgiving is a great holiday - probably the very best holiday in America, if you ask me. (Unsurprisingly, you always wondered, it commemorates the first harvest feast at which the pilgrims sat down with the Indians to thank them for all their help and tell them: "Oh, and by the way, we've decided we want the whole country.") It is a great holiday because you don't have to give gifts or send cards or do anything but eat until you begin to look like a balloon that has been left on a helium machine too long.

The trouble is that it comes less than a month before Christmas. So when, on 25 December, Mum brings out another turkey, you don't go,

"Turkey! YIPPEEE!" but rather: "Ah, turkey again is it, Mother?" Under such an arrangement Christmas dinner is bound to come as an anticlimax.

Also, Americans don't drink much at Christmas, as a rule. Indeed, I suspect most people in America would think it faintly unseemly to imbibe anything more than, say, a small sherry before lunch on Christmas Day. Americans save their large-scale drinking for New Year's Eve.

Nor, come to that, do we have many of the standard features of Christmas that you take for granted. There are no Christmas pantomimes in America. No mince pies, and hardly any Christmas puddings. There's no hell-ringing on Christmas Eve. No crackers. No big double issue of the *Radio Times*. No brandy butter. No little dishes full of nuts. No hearing "Merry Xmas Everybody" by Slade at least once every 30 minutes. Above all, there is no Boxing Day.

On 26 December, everybody in the United States goes back to work. In fact, Christmas as a

noticeable phenomenon pretty well ends about midday on 25 December. There's nothing special on TV, and most large stores and shopping malls now open for the afternoon (so that people can exchange all the things they got but didn't want). You can go to the movies on Christmas Day in America. You can go bowling. It doesn't seem right somehow.

As for Boxing Day, most people in America have never heard of it or, at best, have only the vaguest idea of what it is. It may surprise you to hear, incidentally, that Boxing Day is actually quite a modern invention. The *Oxford English Dictionary* can trace the term back no further than 1849. Its roots go back at least to medieval times, when it was the custom to break open church alms boxes at Christmas and distribute the contents to the poor, but as a holiday Boxing Day only dates from the last century. Which explains why you have it and we don't. Personally, I much prefer

Boxing Day to Christmas, largely because it has all the advantages of Christmas (lots of food and drink, general good will towards all, a chance to doze in an armchair during daylight hours) without any of the disadvantages - like spending hours on the floor trying to assemble doll's houses and bicycles from instructions written in Taiwan, or the uttering of false professions of gratitude to Aunt Gladys for a hand-knitted jumper that even Gyles Brandreth wouldn't wear. ("No honestly, Glad, I've been looking everywhere for a jumper with a unicorn motif.")

No, if there is one thing I miss from England it's Boxing Day. That and, of course, hearing "Merry Xmas Everybody" by Slade over and over. Apart from anything else, it makes you appreciate the rest of the year so much more.

Extracted from *Notes from a Big Country*, published by Doubleday at £16.99. At all major book shops or by mail-order on 01624 675137

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INFORMATION UNLIMITED

Will it affect you? What does it mean?

Most equipment and software contain

microprocessors which rely on dates to function correctly. The millennium bug is the term used to describe the potential difficulties that computer and electronic equipment will have in handling the date change on 1 January 2000. The problem originated in the Sixties and Seventies when computer programmers, to save memory space, adopted the practice of referring to years by their last two digits rather than by all four: "98", rather than "1998".

As a consequence, some computers will not be able to tell the difference between the year 2000 and the year 1900, because both figures have 00 as their last two digits. This could mean that some computers and electronic equipment will produce meaningless information or fail at the millennium. Most new products contain chips that do recognise 2000.

What may be affected?

Time is ticking away inside personal computers, mainframes and electronic systems all over the world and, as most areas of modern life are affected by IT, no one knows how great the impact will be, which is why the Government is

ALL THE FACTS YOU NEED TO AVOID HEARTACHE NO 19: THE MILLENNIUM BUG

trying to get everyone to take preventative action.

Electronic equipment such as telephones, fax machines, photocopyers, fire alarms, security systems, medical equipment, air conditioning, heating systems, drainage, water, sewerage and lifts can all contain microprocessors which may be affected by the date change.

Organisations which depend on services such as water, gas and electricity may be affected by failures in their supply chain even if their own internal systems are 2000-compliant.

What you can do

Most problems will occur around the millennium date change. The Government has set up a scheme called Action 2000 to prepare businesses and consumers for the millennium. Call them for further advice on measures to be taken on 0845 6012000. Contact your employer, bank, insurer, GP and anyone else who holds computer records of your affairs and ask them how they will be tackling the problem.

- ◆ Keep your financial papers in order for 1999.
- ◆ Keep a record (dates and amounts) of wage payments, direct debits,

mortgage repayments and policy renewal dates which you will be able to refer back to if you have a problem in 2000.

◆ If you have a credit card with "00" expiry date, keep all your transaction slips from now on and check them regularly against your statements.

◆ Call your gas and electricity suppliers and ask them what measures they are taking. Keep your utility bills so that you have proof of meter readings, in case there are problems with billing in 2000.

Does insurance cover it?

Policies are designed to cover the unforeseen and the unpredictable - the millennium is foreseeable and predictable, though some of the consequences are not. Speak to your insurance company if you are concerned and check if they have any exclusions, as these may start to appear in 1999. For general advice, call the Association for British Insurers on 0171-600 3333.

Household insurance: it is unlikely that your policy will cover individual items which malfunction. It will be seen as the manufacturer's responsibility to insure that their products are

millennium-compliant. However, if your heating broke down and your pipes froze and burst, they would probably meet the cost of repair, because burst pipes could not have been predicted. But it is best to phone them and check.

Travel insurance should be checked closer to 2000 to cover against delays, lost luggage or cancellations. The "home check" pack from Action 2000 gives instructions on how to check the internal clock on certain products in your home such as VCRs. By setting the clock to roll from 1999 to 2000 you can see if it recognises the date change.

The Action 2000 website www.bug2000.co.uk lists the top 100 software packages for personal computers and tells you how they might be affected. If you discover that any products are not year 2000-compatible, get in touch with your retailer.

Further information

The Consumers Association would be interested to know if you have experienced any problems with products or services as a result of the millennium bug. Call 0645 830232 if you have had a problem with a product, or 0645 830234 if you have had a problem with a service.

Compiled by the authors of *Women Unlimited: The Directory for Life* published by Penguin, £9.99

The king of St Helens

The Johnny Vegas Television Show is about to arrive in your living room. It's the most instantly legendary comedy moment since Father Ted. By Ben Thompson

If you've never seen Johnny Vegas live, you will need to be convinced that a 28-year-old failed potter can mould an audience in his hands with the suppleness and application of a master craftsman. By sheer force of personality, this emotional volcano from St Helens - his fleshy slopes tattooed with rivulets of beer, sweat and clay - persuades women to let him kiss them and men to give him their designer shirts to clothe his nakedness. He reflects people's anxiety back at them through the distorting mirror of his own desperation, and they watch spellbound as he overcomes the class divide with an uplifting chorus of the "Hokey Cokey".

Even those who have seen Johnny Vegas bead a crowd to his will might still be wondering how he can successfully transfer to TV, where the key element of the Vegas live experience - the fact that the audience are shut in a room with him and can't escape because they've paid - is no longer a factor. Furthermore, in small screen terms, several aspects of the Vegas persona look naggingly familiar.

The travails of bottom flight show-business have already been explored by such able prospectors as Tommy Cockles, John Shuttleworth and Alan Partridge. The thin line between acting drunk and actually being drunk is hardly new ground either. But the rich ore Vegas extracts is all the more valuable for coming from such a well-mined seam. And the one-off debut of *The Johnny Vegas Television Show* (with a series to follow some time next year) is the most instantly legendary

TV comedy moment since the first episode of *Father Ted*. Think Les Dawson at his best, think John Kennedy Toole's literary masterpiece *Confederacy of Dunces* translated to a small northern boating lake, think a blow-up model of Jonathan Creek's Alan Davies being inflated by an automatic balloon pump. *The Johnny Vegas Television Show* suggests all these things.

Resplendently out of place in a bustling west London champagne bar, Johnny Vegas's representative oo earth - 28-year-old failed potter Michael Pennington - reflects on all the different ways it could have gone wrong. More sober in dress and demeanour than his flamboyantly flared and car-coated creation, Pennington shares Vegas's gift for rhetoric, and his Lancashire accent is as rich as a well-made Eccles cake.

"The question was, how did we get Johnny on TV without making him a TV person?" Pennington says. "We didn't want to make a mock documentary. This is how he lives. We didn't want to do a stand-up show, because Johnny Vegas is not a presenter: he's a very sad bloke who lives on his own who's an alcoholic. Every now and then he ventures into the world and he's very, very bitter."

The reason *The Johnny Vegas Television Show* succeeds where so many other attempts to translate Edinburgh Festival hits to TV have failed, is that it manages to establish its own integrity rather than shoe-horning a well-boned club act into an inappropriate new format.

"This is the dark years," Pennington explains, "the bit that never gets explained."

The cameras follow Vegas around his hometown of St Helens with occasional flashbacks to his glory days at Butlin's in Skegness.

"I never wanted personally to laugh at St Helens," Pennington insists, "because I live there, but this is the only place on earth where Johnny can exist: when we were filming, nobody said: 'What are you doing stood there looking like that?' All we'd get was: 'I haven't got time,' or: 'Sorry son, I think you're drunk.'"

We see Johnny hassling a hapless entertainment secretary at his local labour club, Johnny hassling an ice cream man, Johnny chased by a kite.

"There's something of a care-in-the-community element to it," Pennington explains. "You look at Johnny and think: 'Why is somebody not looking after him during the day?' The feeling we wanted to get was: 'You shouldn't be laughing at this, but... Some people think it's too dark, but it couldn't be too dark.'"

Almost as compelling as Vegas's whirlpool of misplaced moral energy ("I deserve to be loved!") is the unforced naturalism of the people he comes up against. The secret of *The Johnny Vegas Show*'s imposingly realistic collection of ice cream men and park keepers is that they are ice cream men and park keepers.

"People have said: 'What's he been in before? I know I've seen him in something.' And we're like: 'You haven't, he's an ice cream man from St Helens.'"

If Pennington's primary motivation was not so obviously compassion, there might be a hint of Jeremy Beadle in all this. As it is, *The Johnny Vegas Television Show* offers



Johnny Vegas: 'Every now and then he ventures into the world and he's very, very bitter'

us not just a welcome riposte to the endless search for "characters" in documentary series whose intermingling of show-business and reality is demeaning to both, but also a revolution in TV's approach to the ordinary. "There's somebody like Johnny in everybody's community," Pennington insists. "This person talking to you who you think is a nutter quite possibly was Butlin's boy number one at some point - all he wanted to do was make people happy and he's been denied that."

Would it be fair to suggest there might be a political element to all of this? "I'd like to think it's a commentary, without being a lecture." Perhaps this is why, where other comedians talk in terms of being true to comic traditions - Peter Sellers or Mooty Pythoo or whoever - Pennington talks about his work in terms of being true to the spirit of people in pubs. He stopped watching other people's comedy when he started to do his own.

"I'm always wary of aspiring to be

like someone else. It's like you're in a shop and you can't afford the stuff, so you look at a teapot and think: 'I'll go home and make my own,' and you do it and it looks nothing like the one you wanted, so why waste your time? Why not put your energy into making a teapot of your own?"

That teapot is on display now, and it's a lovely piece of work.

The Johnny Vegas Television Show is on Channel 4 this Sunday, 27 December, at 10.30pm

THIS WAS THE WEEK THAT WAS

Today In 1937 the first full-length colour cartoon was premiered: Disney's *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*, which six decades later is still turning up at a multiplex near you. (Unlike *Petropolis*, the first black-and-white cartoon talkie, a political satire on a forgotten president of Argentina.)

Tomorrow The first revolving stage began whizzing around in 1758: wisely, it was extremely small-scale, at Kadn-za Doll Theatre, Osaka, Japan.

Wednesday In 1888 the big news in art was that Van Gogh cut off his ear; he was depressed, not least because Gauguin was leaving their lodgings in Arles to escape the winter (and possibly Vincent's company).

Christmas Eve In 1822 *The Truth about Father Christmas*, the first play written for the wireless, by Phyllis M Twigg, became a branch of radio history. In 1974 the Christmas spirit did not extend to The Beatles: the Fab Four became four Fab Ones.

Christmas Day It wasn't until 1843 that Mitchell's Olympic Theatre in New York worked out what to do with a stage empty all day: they put on a matinee.

Boxing Day Britain's first ever pantomime was *Harlequin Executed*, at Lincoln's Inn Fields Theatre in 1717. Oh no it wasn't! Oh yes it was!

Sunday In 1904 *Peter Pan* opened in London, with Gerald du Maurier as Captain Hook. In Dublin the first state-subsidised theatre, the Abbey, presented plays by Lady Gregory and Mr Yeats.

JONATHAN SALE



NETWORK

The links that will revolutionise PCs

Faster access to the Internet plus cheap and efficient networking could radically alter the way we use computers. By Stephen Pritchard

The home of the future will be as connected, or perhaps even better connected, than most of today's offices, if the predictions of Eric Benhamou, 3Com's president and chief executive officer, prove to be true. 3Com is one of the world leaders in computer networking equipment and, since its purchase of US Robotics last year, in modems, too. According to market research, 3Com is one of the most recognised computing brands in the United States. The company's public perception ranks alongside Hewlett-Packard – and even above that of Microsoft.

3Com was founded in 1979 in California; the company pioneered the ethernet networking standard. Ethernet is now used in offices worldwide, but in 1979, the idea of a PC, let alone a group of PCs that could share information, was very much in its infancy. In the last two decades, computer networks have become big business. Cheap and efficient networking helped the PC take on mainframe computers, and win. More recently, computer networks, in the form of the Internet, have started to capture the public imagination. The Net provides companies such as 3Com with an enormous, uncaptured market.

Computer users' desires for faster, smoother Internet access is a key driver of 3Com's success. The company has been at the forefront of developing more powerful modem technologies. Today's 56k modems are four times as fast as the standard modem three years ago, but they cost less. 3Com is heavily involved in developing devices to connect computers to cable networks, emerging technologies such as DSL (Digital Subscriber Line) and ISDN. It also makes connectors for GSM mobile phones and the RAM wireless data network. "The demand for faster Internet access is driven by many of the same applications we use now: e-mail with attachments, Web browsing, and research," Mr Benhamou says. "Some of the new applications that come to life are streaming audio and video, either video conferencing, or video on demand. There are over 10,000 radio stations on the Internet today broadcasting audio content. With faster connections, it's likely that we will see digital audio sites that stream CD-quality audio into the home in the background while you're surfing the Web or e-mailing."

DSL, including the version BT is currently testing in west London, is an "always on" technology. Computers are permanently connected to the Internet, and there are no time-based charges for that connection. This feature, Mr Benhamou believes, will open up the real potential of the Internet for homes. "The Internet becomes far more compelling with persistent connections," he says.

Faster access, suggests Mr Benhamou, will encourage us to rethink the way we use our computers, and the way they talk to each other. In developed computer markets, such as the United States, Germany and the UK, Benhamou points out, there are already multi-PC households. Sometimes this is



Eric Benhamou predicts falling PC prices will increase the Internet's popularity. Stephen Pritchard

because one or more family members work from home. Sometimes, households upgrade, but keep their old PCs. Sometimes it stems from adults wanting to reclaim the PC from their kids. 3Com estimates that around 60 per cent of PCs sold through retailers go into homes that already have a computer.

It makes far more sense to connect all the computers in a home to the Internet through a single, powerful connection than by attaching a relatively slow modem to each PC and a phone line. It is also much more economical. BT's trial, for example, costs £30 a month for connection and the hardware. 3Com's solution to sharing that bandwidth – or the comparable technology from cable companies – is through a mini-network in the home. Mr Benhamou points to an increasing number of property developers who are building flexible network cables into their house designs in the US and Europe. 3Com is also a key member of consortia that are developing networking technologies that will deliver either 1Mbps or 10Mbps – the same speed as ethernet – over domestic phone cables or mains electric wiring. Mr Benhamou expects products to hit the market in 1999, and prices to start at little more than \$20.

"Home networking can deliver on this tremendous opportunity for multi-PC households to share files, peripherals and an Internet connection via low-cost networking solutions," Mr Benhamou says. "Our HomeConnect brand will deliver products that allow multi-PC connectivity within the home and out to the

Internet, enabling a range of new applications like streaming multimedia."

Mr Benhamou predicts that falling PC prices will help the Internet to reach more homes, but his vision is not restricted to PCs. Away from the business market, developments such as Internet-based broadcasting or video on demand will encourage households to go online. It will also fuel development of Internet access devices that bear little resemblance to conventional PCs.

There are over 10,000 radio stations on the Internet today broadcasting audio content

Mr Benhamou believes the jury is still out on concepts such as Microsoft-backed web TV, but he can see the huge potential of devices which deliver Internet connectivity to the home TV set, especially for applications such as electronic banking or travel bookings. As important, he predicts, will be advances based around the telephone and handheld computers. 3Com is already the leader in the palmtop market with its Palm range of "connected organisers".

In July this year, 3Com entered into an alliance with Siemens, creating a joint venture that will integrate computer

communications with telephony. The Siemens alliance gives 3Com valuable access to technologies more often associated with telecommunications. The joint venture is developing systems that integrate data, voice and video over single networks.

Phone handsets will become increasingly important ways to access the Internet too. Smartphones with built-in displays offer a low-cost way to connect households, especially to e-mail. Mobile phones will play their part, as will integrated mobile devices. In the US, 3Com has just announced the Palm 7, which has built-in access to the RAM network. In Europe, there will be a version built around GSM, and 3Com expects to develop organisers based around the Blue Tooth wireless communications system that is backed by companies such as Intel, TDK and Nokia.

"The home network becomes the platform for these devices co-existing within the home," says Mr Benhamou. "We anticipate that set-top boxes, smartphones, PCs and devices like the Palm will have network connections that will allow them to share information and Internet access within the home. Think of what happened with electricity," he adds. "No one imagined they'd have hair-dryers or toasters when they wired the early homes. But the utility of power caused technology to take advantage of electricity. With an enabling 'utility' like a home network, appliances will spring up to keep consumers more connected to the people and information that matter to them."

BYTES

ANDY OLDFIELD

AN INITIATIVE to develop a new secure method of distributing music over the Internet was announced last week in New York by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA); chief executives of the major US record firms, and representatives of technology firms such as AOL (which now owns CompuServe), Diamond Multimedia, Microsoft, RealNetworks, IBM and AT&T.

Work on the "Secure Digital Music Initiative" is set to get under way next year and will address the lack of compatibility between current competing technologies such as Liquid Audio and a2b, as well as the potential piracy problems and lack of copyright control associated with the de facto standard MP3 that is established among Net users.

The new standard will aim at developing a means of digital distribution to protect copyrighted material and allow labels and artists to engage in online commerce.

Record company executives said they did not envisage the new format bringing about lower prices.

However, some companies said that the industry response to MP3 is too little and too late. "MP3 is unstoppable. Any initiative now is like launching Betamax two years after VHS has become the standard," said Robert Kohn, the chairman of the independent music company, Goodnoise. "The real solution to piracy is to make music cheaper to buy than it is to steal."

THE JUDGE presiding over the Microsoft anti-trust trial in Washington said last week that AOL's proposed \$4.2bn buy-out of Netscape Communications and its co-operative deal with Sun Microsystems may have an "immediate effect" on the case. Microsoft's lawyers requested that, in light of the proposed merger, the judge re-open the evidence-gathering phase of the trial. Judge Thomas Penfield Jackson said he was

reluctant to allow this, but suggested instead that Microsoft be given a look at any documents gathered by the government in a review of the merger.

"It seems the Department of Justice would be in possession of the operative documents (for the merger) and that Microsoft may have a right to review the terms," Jackson said. "It could have an immediate effect on the definition of the market as we are contemplating it here."

In a separate court case, Microsoft said it will appeal against a preliminary injunction requiring it to modify or withdraw some software products while it fights the lawsuit brought against it by Sun over its use of the Java programming language.

TALKS IN London between US Commerce Department and State Department officials and members of Privacy International (PI), a civil rights group based in the United Kingdom and

Washington, about an EU privacy directive, ended in stalemate last week. The directive, set to become law in all EU states, will give individuals control over their personal data and stop database-marketers, websites, credit card companies and others from exchanging personal data with countries that do not provide "adequate" protection of the data.

To prevent US companies' data transfers from being halted by the EU, the Clinton administration has proposed "safe harbours", based on self-regulation privacy guidelines used by commercial sites, such as notifying people about policies on collecting data; providing "opt out" facilities; and disclosing to whom the firm passes on the data. PI said the plans were not satisfactory and that Europe should not bend the rules to accommodate the US.

3Dfx INTERACTIVE, the games chip manufacturer,

announced that it will buy the graphics-card maker STB for \$141m. The deal is expected to be finalised in March. STB's operations will remain based in Richardson, Texas, with the combined company headquarters at 3Dfx's office in San Jose, California.

3Dfx said that William Ogle, the president and chief executive of STB, would join its board. Gordon Campbell will remain as chairman of 3Dfx.

Following the purchase, the company will manufacture entire 3D accelerator cards, rather than just the graphics chips. A new board based on its Voodoo3 chip will be produced. 3Dfx said the deal would provide its customers with a single source for its 3D graphics technology.

Although it intends to carry on supplying chips to Quantum 3D, which makes cards for arcade machines, it will probably stop supplying other PC card producers such as Creative and Diamond.

To: mum@talk21.com
From: hamish@talk21.com
Subject: greetings from Rome

To: mum@talk21.com
From: hamish@talk21.com
Subject: greetings from Amsterdam

Subject: greetings from Amsterdam

The
time's
colourful

To: mum@talk21.com
From: hamish@talk21.com
Subject: greetings from Athens



Dancer DNA blends an ultra-Darwinist theory with high-speed computer graphics

Morphing to the sound of a hi-hat

Virtual DNA is the inspiration behind a new graphics package. By **Matt Jones**

Until recently the only use for a PC in a nightclub was to count the takings at the end of the night. However, with their powerful graphics capabilities, they are now branching out into the entertainment side - not as games machines but alongside the light and laser systems of a club's visual arsenal.

Dancer DNA is a new software package that uses a "virtual DNA" string to create kaleidoscopic virtual lifeforms - mutate and grow up in response to music. Hooked up to

a sound system and projector, it provides a mesmerising light-show that is a perfect complement to the sensory overload of the leading London clubs.

What is most surprising, though, is that the inspiration for the software comes not from some hardcore clubber but from the leading evolutionary biologist Richard Dawkins, who was collaborating on a multimedia CD with Dancer DNA's creators, Ntting Hill Publishing, the electronic publishing company created by Andreas Whittam Smith, the founder and former editor of this newspaper.

In *The Blind Watchmaker* Dawkins theorised that human

DNA and the binary information storage systems used by a computer were very similar: "Instead of just the two states 1 and 0, the information technology of living cells uses four states.... There is very little difference, in principle, between a two-state binary information technology like ours, and a four-state information technology like that of the living cell."

Dancer DNA blends this ultra-Darwinist theory with high-speed computer graphics. Just about everything is customisable, from a creature's rate of morphing and spin to the threshold at which the effects take hold. A frequency analyser

allows the user to specify different parts of the music that it responds to (hi-hats, vocals, bass, etc) to trigger different effects, so the package can be programmed to accompany certain tracks. Dance music, with its defined peaks and troughs, is the ideal soundtrack to *Dancer DNA*; although it gave interesting results with many other genres, including heavy metal and country and western – as demonstrated at a recent show at the ICA in London.

There are 15 species provided on the CD, with more available from the *Dancer DNA* website. A few mouse clicks creates a "genescape" for your species and gets them dancing

to whatever music you have in your CD drive. Customising the species couldn't be easier — the cut'n'paste method ensures that new strains can be easily created and mutated.

Dancer DNA has already struted its virtual stuff at the Blue Note, Orb and the End clubs in London, as well as on the BBC's *Clothes Show*, and is set to perform alongside New Order and Underworld at the Alexandra Palace New Year's Eve spectacular. Entertainment from evolutionary theory — who would have thought it?

Dancer DNA
(www.dancerdna.com),
£19.99; order on 01634 297123

The case of the empty e-mail

THERE IT WAS, again, in my e-mail inbox. For the fourth time in a few weeks, here was an e-mail with no subject or message text.

Like most people, I'm not fond of spammers. In fact, they drive me nuts. My old Internet connection was usage-based, meaning that the bill went up for every piece of spam received or transmitted through the gulker.com domain. When spammers hijacked my mail server earlier this year, I gnt downright testy.

As competition has driven down the price of spam software and mailing lists, the quality of spam has fallen tremendously, if you can accept the notion of "quality" and "spam" in the same phrase.

Spammers who misspell their pitch – in the subject line, no less – have become routine. Recent offerings include "aprosdesiac", "debt to high", "risk free", "for are clients", "frequent asked questions", "hot address's", and "co-branding program". Worse, lately, not a few spammers who clog bandwidth with hundreds of thousands of missives have somehow neglected to actually include a message.

What, I wonder, prompts a person to go to the effort of buying spam software, sign up for an Internet account that will be suspended immediately after the first spam (at a loss of set-up charges and first month's fees), and then forget to include a message? Are a few of us in the spam community running a few

packets short of a datagram?


So, to get back to my tale, here it was, the fourth subject-less, text-less message in a row. I figured it was spam, for sure. Curiously, this latest one had an attachment "notice.htm", which contained the following:

```
PGH0bWw+PHNjcmhwdCBs
Yw5d+bnFZT0lmaFZYXNj
mhwCl+wfCZT0ld2ueHni
Ozwvc2NyaxK0pGKGZyY
w1k2i0VhHdV3m9MJewuS
wqJl48HpsWzC3jJfSjndR
w0l8veHpsWj55ZwFoLm5l
dCigbmFZT0lmeGR4e1lgbm9
ZwXNpmUyG2Nbyb2xsaW5n
Pw5wFpGKFGZyWjU1IHNYl
Z1aHROcDowl343dy56aGf
uamhbmCwZ2QuY24vbmV0
aG9rZS9yZDxNpl3N6c9Cp
mRlEC5nagDGU5G5vcmVzaXpl
mRlEC5nagDGU5G5vcmVzaXpl
wZnJhWwVwZXZQ+PC9odG
lSpG==
```

Why, I wondered, would you bother to name something as if it were a Web page, attach it, and e-mail it if all it contained was garbage?

But, was it? ASCII text is encoded by a byte - an 8-bit binary number than can encode up to 256 characters. Since there are only 52 alphabet letters (26 lowercase and 26 uppercase) in an ASCII set, most true random garbage mainly contains the weird punctuation and figures that are encoded by the other 204 numbers.

But this missive contains mainly letters, along with a few other characters. Letters and "regular"



CHRIS GULKER

Spamming is one of the curses of the Internet age, and often seems one of the most pointless, too

punctuation are "safe" characters, that is to say, they probably don't represent binary commands. Many Internet transport protocols require that data be transmitted as only "safe" characters, lest a router or computer interpret them as a command to, say, reset or shut down.

Could this be a kind of encoding? The plot thickens!

My modern e-mail client hides most of the stuff that's attached to an e-mail message like Internet headers and MIME specs. Thoughtfully, it has a "View source code" menu item that allows the user to see all the gory details. "View source" revealed the line: "Content-Transfer-Encoding: Base 64."

Aha! Base 64 is another encoding scheme that uses

safe characters. Now all I needed was a Base 64 decoder. A quick visit to a freeware/shareware site revealed nothing, since most modern e-mail packages have built-in decoders (and who knows why mine wasn't kicking in?). Fortunately, Sherlock, my Mac's find-it program, turned up a folder called "YA Base 64" on an old, long-neglected hard drive connected to one of the oldest computers gathering dust on gulker.com's LAN.

"YA" in freeware parlance stands for "Yet Another." Freeware programmers, God bless their souls, are like any other community—they have vogues and fads. Whenever a bunch of programmers tackle the same subject, like decoder utilities, they not infrequently name the result "YA-something," as in YA-freeware for "Yet Another Usenet news reader." The program's creation date was 1996.

"Vintage software! I wondered if it would run. It did. But when I dropped "notice.htm" on it, nothing happened. Back to the drawing board.

Inspiration struck—notice.htm was devoid of the content encoding string and other markers in the source e-mail. Decoder programs look for markers—words like "BEGIN" or "Cut Here"—and then the bits to decode. I saved the e-mail to disk, and dropped it on the decoder—now "notice.htm" file appeared immediately. I dropped it on my browser:

A page appeared, a Java applet launched, question marks began to parade across the browser's bottom order, a new window appeared and the browser suddenly transported itself a site <http://www.zhanjiang.gd.cn/>. But "cn"? This was in China!


One of the windows began to display a mesmerising 3D graphic, a "Christmas benedictine" scrolled. In another window a photo collage appeared, and then, suddenly, its surface rippled as if a drop of water had fallen in a still pool covering the image. Then a wave undulated from one corner to the other. The effects are dazzling, and had undulated so fast from a server across the Pacific, at I knew these were no mere animated GIF files. I clicked on the image.

A new window appeared: Formhole Applet by Fabio Lucucci, with the line "You n connect to my page" and I clicked the button. The were transported to: <http://www.anfiteatro.it/java.html> - Italy, this time.

Another wizzy rippling page appeared. Fabio is a programmer, and his Java applets are for sale.

Thirty minutes of detective work on three continents, only to find I'd mammed myself Fabio, I'm one brilliant (the alternative is the world's dumbest mammed). Oi vey.


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Are you surfing comfortably?

For the festive season, I want to give all of my readers a special present: a universal remote control for your website. Whether you are channel surfing or web surfing, a remote control can make the experience more convenient and more comfortable.

With the telly, a remote control is a small device with buttons which is used to change the content on the big screen. On the Web, the remote is a small browser window that contains links to change the content in the main browser window.

If you have any problems with this code, or you would like to see a working example of the remote control, visit: <http://www.webbedev.com/examples/49.html>.

To set up your remote control, the basic idea is to use JavaScript to open a new window and then place an HTML

WEB DESIGN



JASON CRANFORD TEAGUE

file in it with the links that make up the remote. The remote is opened from the main browser window which, in this example, is set up as two horizontal frames.

The top frame (menu) will have the link used to open up the remote control and the bottom frame (content) will be what the remote control targets its links into.

```
<FRAMESET ROWS="50,"
>
<FRAME SRC="menu.html"
NAME="menu">
<FRAME
SRC="p1.html"
NAME="content">
</FRAMESET>
```

Opening the Remote Control
Using the JavaScript open method, we create a function called `remoteOpen()` which is placed in a `<SCRIPT LANGUAGE="JavaScript">` ... `</SCRIPT>` in the `<HEAD>` of the menu.html file.

```
var remote = null;
function remoteOpen() {
    remote =
    window.open("remote.html",
    "remote", "width=100,height=
    250");
    window.remote.focus();
}
```

When activated, this function

will create a new window called "remote" with a width of 100 pixels and a height of 250 pixels. The new window will contain the file `remote.html` which is a run-of-the-mill HTML file. Unlike a standard window, however, the remote window will not have menus, browser navigation (ie, back and forward arrows), the current URL listing or anything other than the border - called the "chrome" - does include the standard close-window button in the upper right corner, allowing the visitor to close the remote at any time, but all of the 100x250 area is reserved for the file being loaded into the remote.

Notice also that the `remoteOpen()` function gives the remote focus - that is, it will place it on top of any other windows on the screen. Otherwise, if the remote window were already open, but covered by another window, it would

simply reload without coming to the front. This can be very confusing to visitors to your site if they hit the link to reopen the remote and nothing appears. Speaking of which...

To open the remote, we have to run the `remoteOpen()` function. There are several ways to do this, including having it open automatically when the main browser window opens. However, it is a good idea to include a link that will allow visitors to reopen the remote if they close it or to bring the remote to the front if it disappears behind another window.

```
<A HREF="javascript:remoteOp
en()">Remote</A>
```

Targeting Links Back to the Main Window
So what goes into the remote control? Anything that you could put into an HTML document, but you need to keep in mind that it has to fit into the

dimensions you defined in the `remoteOpen()` function. If you want links from the remote to appear in the main window, simply target the links to the content frame.

```
<A HREF="p1.html"
TARGET="content">Page
1</A>
<A HREF="p2.html"
TARGET="content">Page
2</A>
<A HREF="p3.html"
TARGET="content">Page
3</A>
```

The above links are in `remote.html` but they target their links back into the content frame in the main window.

Closing the Remote
The visitor can close the remote control by using the remote window's built-in close button, but what happens if the visitor leaves your site without closing the remote? Good manners dictate that you should clean up

after yourself. To that end, place the `remoteClose()` function in `menu.html`.

```
function remoteClose() {
    if ((remote != null)
    &&
    (window.remote.document
    != null)) {
        remote.close();
    } else { return; }
}
```

This function first checks to see if the remote is open. If it is, the function closes the window. Place an `onUnload` event handler into the `<BODY>` tag of `menu.html`.

```
<BODY
onUnload="remoteClose()">
```

Now, when the visitor goes to a new website, and the `menu.html` file is unloaded, the remote will automatically disappear.

remote is good for much, much more! **SideBar Navigation:** The simplest use of the remote control is to replace the sidebar navigation often used in websites. Check out the real cool remote in `Entropy8` (<http://www.entropy8.com/>).

Web Tour: If you have a page of your favourite websites, you might consider placing them into a remote control.

Control Pad: You can also make the remote into a control pad to add functionality to the site.

Kairo (http://english.thu.edu/kairo/3.2) uses a remote control with two frames: the left frame has the links while the right frame can display information about the journal, search engine links, and links to other materials.

Season's greetings. Enjoy your new toy.

E-mail Jason at indy_webdesign@mindspring.com

WEBSITES

BILL PANNIFER



Keeping track of Santa
www.santatracker.com/html/santatracker.html

Santa's progress is here observed with military precision. Departure from the North Pole on 24 December will be video-monitored, the reindeer radar-tracked, and meteorological reports constantly updated.

The site features real-time sleigh systems evaluation and even a special night-vision facility. Special flashing alerts will warn viewers as he zeros in to make his home deliveries.

Jollier, if less topical, thrills at Claus Com's animated theme park (www2.claus.com), where kids anxiously awaiting their stocking can check their personal "naughty" or "nice" rating in advance. Another

hopeful (www.santa-claus.com) chuckles away while claiming to have been online since 1672. Meanwhile, Lycos offers a Java Race Your Reindeers game (www.lycos.co.uk/webguides/special/xmas/race/index.html).

Simplify the festive hois
www.newdream.org/holiday

Conspicuous Christmas consumption is under attack at this site: the US produces five million extra tons of rubbish over the festive period and this site suggests creating less waste. Visitors send in unusual, ecologically sound gift ideas - "my parents sponsored a panther in my name at the zoo" - and there are proposals for gifts of time rather than money, as well as some rather strained

alternative carols. Also on patrol is a Commercialism Cop to bust premature seasonal mania, such as the Maryland shop which put up its tree in July.

Links lead to other recycled presents, such as the ever-popular ornaments made from freebie AOL CDs (www.neosoft.com/aolcds), which this year include a Nativity Scene and a Jingle Bell Necklace.

Frankenfurby is promised
www.furby.com/furby/index.html

Christmas is a time of worldwide communication, and where Esperanto failed, the Furby could well succeed. The official site for this year's hard-to-get toy includes a Furby dictionary - with sound clips (happy = noo-

oo; tickle = oee-tye; maybe, oddly enough, = may-bee) - and the chance to send a festive shot of one of the furry posts posing in front of the Taj Mahal.

As no one actually believes in Santa anymore, this year's dose of disillusionment could perhaps come from the Furby Autopsy Site (www.pbob.com/furby/), which gives instructions for unpeeling skin, ears and

carapace, right down to the motor and CPU. One specimen is being kept on ice before being modified, using electric cooker parts, and resurrected as Frankenfurby. "We find him much more amusing dead than alive," muse the webmasters.

Praying by fingers
www.cofe.anglican.org

Not much sign of Christmas here as yet. The self-proclaimed "young and modest", though well-designed, official site includes a brief history of the church and its organisation; key statistics; and will soon offer sections ranging from major social issues to planning one's own funeral. As well as a daily online service, there is also personal advice on "How to

Prey", with suggestions for using each finger to represent different prayer goals - digital worship in its most literal sense. But some of the ideas sound a bit New Agey: focusing on a feather is recommended. Links lead to individual diocesan and other sites: for more C of E oews and discussion try Anglicans Online (anglican.org/online).

Iraq's touch of peace
christmas.com/worldview

Click on a map for accounts of celebrations worldwide, at this newly enlarged section of this otherwise elf-infested site.

Lots of fascinating detail - Icelanders, it seems, believe in 13 Santas, all descended from the mythical Gryla the Ogre. And interesting festive grub includes

figgy pudding and Finnish kaffi bulla to raw oysters.

Too often country links lead to a dead end - "We are currently looking for contributions for Myanmar (Burma)".

But there remains much multicultural variety, as well as some universal aspirations: "In Iraq... after the service, the bishop blesses one person with a touch. Then that person touches the person next to him or her. Finally everyone has the 'touch of peace' on Christmas Day."

But nothing, of course, about US cruise missiles to celebrate the start of Ramadan.

Send interesting, quirky or, at a pinch, cool site recommendations to websites@dircon.co.uk

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Are you looking for a job in which you get to meet people from a variety of backgrounds? If you are, the Social Survey Division of ONS has vacancies for interviewers in the following areas: Birmingham, Crawley, Liverpool, Manchester, Reading, Swindon, Teesdale and all London Boroughs.

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NEW FILMS

THE PRINCE OF EGYPT (U)
Director: Brenda Chapman, Simon Wells.
Voice: Val Kilmer, Ralph Fiennes, Michelle Pfeiffer.
DreamWorks' boisterous Jeffrey Katzenberg envisaged his cartoon *Life of Moses* "painted by Claude Monet and photographed by David Lean". The end result winds up as *The Ten Commandments* by way

of Joseph and his Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat. West End: ABC Baker Street, ABC Tottenham Court Road, Barbican Screen, Clapham Picture House, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Empire Leicester Square, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero

GENERAL RELEASE

ANTZ (PG)
See *The Independent Recommends*, right.
West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Phoenix Cinema, Plaza, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on the Green, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero

BABE: PIG IN THE CITY (U)
In the follow-up to *Babe*, knockabout comedy is kept to a minimum in favour of a bleak animatronic fairytale. West End: ABC Baker Street, ABC Tottenham Court Road, Clapham Picture House, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza, Rio Cinema, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero

BLADE (18)
A techno soundtrack bumps and grinds behind this monotonous arcade-game thriller about a New York vampire-killer tackling a power-crazed new bloodsucker. Noise and martial-arts action mask its tinny pedigree.
West End: Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

THE BOYS (18)
Out of jail after serving a sentence for GBH, oldest "boy" Brett Sprague (David Wenham) moves back into his mum's drab suburban home, terrorises his girlfriend and turns his younger brothers into petty henchmen. *The Boys* spotlights the downside of life Down Under - it's potent, predatory stuff.
West End: Metro, Ritzy Cinema

DANCING AT LUGHNASSA (PG)
Less a dance, more of a trudge, this Ireland-set saga is given backbone by Meryl Streep's regal performance. West End: Curzon Mayfair, Notting Hill Coronet, Rio Cinema

DEAD MAN'S CURVE (15)
Writer-director Dan Rosen must have had some terrible experiences at university. All the students at his nameless American college are trying to butcher each other, led into temptation by an obscure regulation that awards straight-A grades to the room-mates of suicides. Though out as deliciously nasty as the *Scream* films, *Dead Man's Curve* delivers a respectable quota of drive-in shocks.
West End: ABC Piccadilly

ELIZABETH (15)
Bekkar Kapur's follow-up to *Bandit Queen* is the story of a female figurehead struggling to gain purchase in a male world. But Kapur largely neglects the opportunities for fun in a story of independence triumphing over cruelty.
West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Odeon Haymarket, Odeon Mezzanine, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Virgin Fulham Road

FEAR AND LOATHING IN LAS VEGAS (18)
Terry Gilliam's adaptation tilts at Ralph Steadman cartoonery for its tale of a drug-fuelled journalistic assignment. The film soon descends into a carnival of narcotic lunacy, with the one stand-out being Johnny Depp - who brings Hunter S. Thompson into half-headed, pigeon-toed life.
West End: ABC Baker Street, Empire Leicester Square, Odeon Camden Town, Ritzy Cinema, Virgin Haymarket

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE (U)
See *The Independent Recommends*, right.
West End: Curzon Soho, Gate Notting Hill, Richmond Filmhouse, Ritzy Cinema

LEFT LUGGAGE (PG)
An unrepentant soap opera, focusing on the ebbs and flows within a Hasidic family in 1970s Holland. Fitful as drama, the film comes to life as a showcase for its high-profile performers plus rising star Laura Fraser.
West End: ABC Swiss Centre, Curzon Minima, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Phoenix Cinema, Richmond Filmhouse, Screen on Baker Street, Screen on the Hill

LOCK, STOCK AND TWO SMOKING BARRELS (18)
Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels follows the lead of *Tarantino*, but the film's defining characteristic is its resilient morality.
West End: ABC Pantons Street, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Mezzanine, Warner Village West End

THE MASK OF ZORRO (PG)
This gaudy swashbuckler gallops full speed through 19th-century California in the company of Antonio Banderas's authentically Hispanic go-gooder. A bite-sized history lesson on West Coast politics struggles amid a lot of colourful duels and clattering set-pieces.
West End: Barbican Screen, Clapham Picture House, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Leicester Square, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road

MULAN (U)
In Disney's animated feature, a girl disguises herself as a soldier to spare her ailing father from the certain death of combat. This set-up has got it all: a pro-active heroine who does not want to tend a man or pet woodland animals; a strong father/daughter relationship; honour and nobility; and, of course, cross-dressing. It's also one of the most visually innovative movies that Disney has ever made.
West End: Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Mezzanine, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Warner Village West End

MY NAME IS JOE (15)
See *The Independent Recommends*, right.
West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, Screen on the Hill, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Haymarket

THE NEGOTIATOR (15)
Samuel L. Jackson and Kevin Spacey go head to head in Gray's thrilling drama. The script has a predilection for hunk-headed swearing that sounds uneasy in the mouths of such articulate, rhetorical performers. West End: Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Marble Arch, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

OUT OF SIGHT (15)
George Clooney plays the low-breaking hero as a down-and-dirty version of Cary Grant, and turns in the best performance of his career so far. He seems to be a grown-up film star when most of Hollywood's male heart-throbs don't look old enough to get served in a pub. West End: Clapham Picture House, Empire Leicester Square, Gate Notting Hill, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero

THE PARENT TRAP (PG)
The Parent Trap catches Disney cannibalising its own back catalogue; re-heating its 1961 Hayley Mills heart-warmer into a spry, cross-cultural caper starring Lindsay Lohan as the separated-at-birth twin sisters (one British, one American) determined to get their parents (Natasha Richardson, Dennis Quaid) back together.
West End: Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea

A PERFECT MURDER (15)
With Hollywood swash with dumb re-makes, the news that Hitchcock's classic *M for Murder* was to be rehashed did not bode well. But this is gold-plated trash: the sort of thing Hollywood does better than anyone else. West End: ABC Pantons Street, Warner Village West End

THE PHILADELPHIA STORY (U)
Sublime cinema. It's a fast-talking romantic comedy, of course, but there's nothing silly or trivial about it. George Cukor's movie has a strange and melancholy heart and Katherine Hepburn's unsatisfied heart sheds real tears.
West End: Curzon Soho, Renoir

PLAYING GOD (18)
Cracker director Andy Wilson suffers a rude lesson in Hollywood politics with this glossy but garbled thriller about a junkie doctor (David Duchovny) embroiled with a gang of counterfeiters headed by a hammy Tim Hutton.
West End: Warner Village West End

RONIN (15)
See *The Independent Recommends*, right.
West End: Odeon Kensington, Odeon West End, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road

RUSH HOUR (15)
Jackie Chan and Chris Tucker star in this hit-and-miss affair. West End: Elephant & Castle Coronet, Gate Notting Hill, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

SLUMS OF BEVERLY HILLS (18)
See *The Independent Recommends*, right.
West End: ABC Piccadilly, ABC Shaftesbury Avenue

TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE (18)
Once ridiculously held up as a video nasty, *Tobe Hooper's* thriller-chiller is, rather, a unholy celebration of the blood-lust urges within white-trash America, ushering a bunch of generic teens to their doom among a family of unemployed slaughtermen. Explicit violence is thin on the ground; instead it's the alien, voodoo mood which dominates. West End: ABC Shaftesbury Avenue

THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT MARY (15)
The latest comedy from the tasteless writer-director team of Peter and Bobby Farrelly. The film is basically a soft-centred romantic comedy of the kind that drifts out of Hollywood on a regular basis. The gags never amount to more than vulgar icing on an unexceptionally bland cake.
West End: Odeon Mezzanine, Screen on the Green, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Haymarket

VELVET GOLDMINE (18)
Jonathan Rhys Meyers plays a Bowie-esque idol in glitter make-up; his friend and mentor Curt Wild (Ewan McGregor) is a self-destructive US rocker in the Lou Reed-Iggy Pop mould. The story of how these characters are bound together is told in a film brimming with intelligent ideas.
West End: Curzon Soho, Rio Cinema

LA VIE REVUE DES ANGES (THE DREAM LIFE OF ANGELS) (18)
Isa (Klodian Bozhe) is a gamine but impoverished drifter who meets Marie (Natacha Regnier) while tending at a clothes sweatshop. They become friends and move in together in a stunning first feature for Erick Zouca.
West End: ABC Swiss Centre, Curzon Minima, Phoenix Cinema, Screen on the Green

THE WISDOM OF CROCODILES (15)
Jude Law plays a contemporary vampire who wines and dines his victims before he goes for the jugular. West End: ABC Pantons Street

THE INDEPENDENT RECOMMENDS

THE FIVE BEST FILMS

My Name Is Joe (15)
All that one would expect from a Ken Leach film - humour, indignation and emotional sympathy - driven by Peter Mullan's scarily intense performance as a reawakening alcoholic.

Antz (PG)
Computer-animated comedy voiced by a stellar cast stars Woody Allen as a worker ant who becomes an unlikely opponent of the colony's totalitarian regime. Good fun, and Allen's best work in a while.

Slums of Beverly Hills (15)
Tamara Jenkins' feature debut (right) is a modest but winning rite-of-passage movie about a family coping with poverty in LA's richest suburb. Alan Arkin gives an acting masterclass as the dad.

Ronin (15)
John Frankenheimer's action thriller is buttressed by a fine international cast (Robert De Niro, Jean Reno, Stellan Skarsgard), moody French locations and a clutch of supercharged car chases.

It's a Wonderful Life (U, Curzon Soho)
Despite its reputation as a national treasure, Frank Capra's hymn to smalltown selflessness is fraught with all kinds of contradictions and blind spots. James Stewart, granted a vision of how life would have been had he never been born, is magnificent in the lead role.

ANTHONY QUINN

THE FIVE BEST PLAYS

Hindie Wakes
Royal Exchange, Manchester
Spectacularly refurbished after the 1996 bombing, this theatre bounces back to fine resilient form with the excellent production which had to be aborted then. To 9 Jan

Martin Guerre
West Yorkshire Playhouse, Leeds
It's third time lucky for this much-rewritten Bouffl/Schönberg musical. In Connal Morrison's starkly involving production, it finally emerges as a tighter, magnificent show. To 13 Feb

The Invention of Love
Theatre Royal, Haymarket
Witty fantasia by Tom Stoppard on the twin passions of AE Houseman: scholarship and an unavailable heterosexual friend. To 4 Apr

Copenhagen
Cottesloe, National Theatre
Michael Frayn's profound and haunting meditation on science, morality and the mysteries of human motivation (above). To 27 Jan

The Boy Who Fell Into a Book
Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough
Typically witty and ingenious concept from Alan Ayckbourn - here wearing his children's dramatist hat. To 9 Jan

PAUL TAYLOR

THE FIVE BEST SHOWS

Louise Bourgeois Serpentine Gallery
Veteran French-American sculptress, still a leading light at 87, shows new installations in which a giant mother/spider presides over images of spinning and weaving, restoration and decay. To 10 Jan

Claude Lorrain British Museum
One hundred drawings by the great French classical landscape painter, including his remarkably vivid outdoor studies of woods and streams. To 10 Jan

Bridget Riley
Abbott Hall, Kendal
A small retrospective, spanning the career of top British abstractionist Riley - from the shimmering monochromes of her early Sixties Op Art fame, to colour, stripes, diagonals and curves. To 31 Jan

Edward Burne-Jones
Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery
Centenary exhibition gathers together many favourites illustrating Burne-Jones's romantic and medievalist nether world. To 17 Jan

Chris Offill Whitworth Gallery, Manchester
The 1998 Turner Prize winner (above) is an upbeat original, his surfaces dense and decorative, with swirls of dots, eyes, Afros and black icons, and incorporating mutant balls of elephant dung. To 24 Jan

TOM LUSBOCK

CINEMA

WEST END

ABC BAKER STREET
(0870 9020418) @ Baker Street
Babe: Pig in the City 12.00pm, 2.00pm, 4.00pm, 6.00pm, 8.00pm, 10.00pm
The Mask of Zorro 12.00pm, 2.00pm, 4.00pm, 6.00pm, 8.00pm, 10.00pm
The Negotiator 12.00pm, 2.00pm, 4.00pm, 6.00pm, 8.00pm, 10.00pm

ABC PANTON STREET
(0870 902 0404) @ Piccadilly
The Last Days of Disco 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.00pm, 8.25pm
Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.00pm, 8.25pm
A Perfect Murder 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.00pm, 8.25pm

ABC PICCADILLY
(0171 287 4322) (from 1pm)
@ Piccadilly Circus
Dead Man's Curve 4.05pm, 6.45pm, 9.05pm
The Philadelphia Story 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.00pm, 8.25pm

ABC SHAFTESBURY AVENUE
(0870 902 0402) @ Leicester Square
The Mask of Zorro 1.05pm, 3.25pm, 5.45pm, 7.05pm, 9.05pm
Texas Chainsaw Massacre 1.35pm, 3.55pm, 6.15pm, 8.35pm

ABC SWISS CENTRE
(0870 902 0403) @ Leicester Square
The Mask of Zorro 1.05pm, 3.25pm, 5.45pm, 7.05pm, 9.05pm
Texas Chainsaw Massacre 1.35pm, 3.55pm, 6.15pm, 8.35pm

ABC TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD
(0870 902 0414) @ Tottenham Court Road
The Mask of Zorro 1.05pm, 3.25pm, 5.45pm, 7.05pm, 9.05pm
Texas Chainsaw Massacre 1.35pm, 3.55pm, 6.15pm, 8.35pm

BARBICAN SCREEN
(0171 638 8891) @ Barbican
The Mask of Zorro 1.05pm, 3.25pm, 5.45pm, 7.05pm, 9.05pm
Texas Chainsaw Massacre 1.35pm, 3.55pm, 6.15pm, 8.35pm

CLAPHAM PICTURE HOUSE
(0171 496 3323) @ Clapham
The Mask of Zorro 1.05pm, 3.25pm, 5.45pm, 7.05pm, 9.05pm
Texas Chainsaw Massacre 1.35pm, 3.55pm, 6.15pm, 8.35pm

CURZON MAYFAIR
(0171 685 1720) @ Green Park
Dancing at Lughnassa 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm

CURZON MINIMA
(0171 369 1723) @ Hyde Park
The Mask of Zorro 1.05pm, 3.25pm, 5.45pm, 7.05pm, 9.05pm
Texas Chainsaw Massacre 1.35pm, 3.55pm, 6.15pm, 8.35pm

ELPHANT AND CASTLE CORONET
(0171 703 4968) @ Elephant & Castle
Babe: Pig in the City 12.00pm, 2.00pm, 4.00pm, 6.00pm, 8.00pm, 10.00pm

EMPIRE LEICESTER SQUARE
(0990 888990) @ Leicester Square
The Mask of Zorro 1.05pm, 3.25pm, 5.45pm, 7.05pm, 9.05pm
Texas Chainsaw Massacre 1.35pm, 3.55pm, 6.15pm, 8.35pm

GATE NOTTING HILL
(0171 727 0431) @ Notting Hill
It's a Wonderful Life 4.10pm, 6.45pm, 9.10pm

LEICESTER SQUARE
(0870 902 0403) @ Leicester Square
The Mask of Zorro 1.05pm, 3.25pm, 5.45pm, 7.05pm, 9.05pm
Texas Chainsaw Massacre 1.35pm, 3.55pm, 6.15pm, 8.35pm

PEPSI IMAX CINEMA
(0171 494 4153) @ Piccadilly
The Mask of Zorro 1.05pm, 3.25pm, 5.45pm, 7.05pm, 9.05pm
Texas Chainsaw Massacre 1.35pm, 3.55pm, 6.15pm, 8.35pm

PHOENIX CINEMA
(0181 444 6789) @ East Finchley
Antz 12pm, 2.00pm, 4.00pm, 6.00pm, 8.00pm, 10.00pm

HAMMERSMITH VIRGIN
(0870 907 0718) @ Ravenscourt Park
Babe: Pig in the City 12.00pm, 2.00pm, 4.00pm, 6.00pm, 8.00pm, 10.00pm
The Mask of Zorro 12.00pm, 2.00pm, 4.00pm, 6.00pm, 8.00pm, 10.00pm
The Negotiator 12.00pm, 2.00pm, 4.00pm, 6.00pm, 8.00pm, 10.00pm

ICA CINEMA
(0171 930 3647) @ Charing Cross
Babe: Pig in the City 12.00pm, 2.00pm, 4.00pm, 6.00pm, 8.00pm, 10.00pm
The Mask of Zorro 12.00pm, 2.00pm, 4.00pm, 6.00pm, 8.00pm, 10.00pm
The Negotiator 12.00pm, 2.00pm, 4.00pm, 6.00pm, 8.00pm, 10.00pm

METRO
(0171 734 1506) @ Piccadilly
The Mask of Zorro 12.00pm, 2.00pm, 4.00pm, 6.00pm, 8.00pm, 10.00pm
The Negotiator 12.00pm, 2.00pm, 4.00pm, 6.00pm, 8.00pm, 10.00pm

NOTTING HILL CORONET
(0171 727 0705) @ Notting Hill
It's a Wonderful Life 4.10pm, 6.45pm, 9.10pm

ODEON CAMDEN TOWN
(0870 905 0507) @ Camden Town
Babe: Pig in the City 12.00pm, 2.00pm, 4.00pm, 6.00pm, 8.00pm, 10.00pm
The Mask of Zorro 12.00pm, 2.00pm, 4.00pm, 6.00pm, 8.00pm, 10.00pm
The Negotiator 12.00pm, 2.00pm, 4.00pm, 6.00pm, 8.00pm, 10.00pm

ODEON KENSINGTON
(0870 905 0507) @ High Street
Babe: Pig in the City 12.00pm, 2.00pm, 4.00pm, 6.00pm, 8.00pm, 10.00pm
The Mask of Zorro 12.00pm, 2.00pm, 4.00pm, 6.00pm, 8.00pm, 10.00pm
The Negotiator 12.00pm, 2.00pm, 4.00pm, 6.00pm, 8.00pm, 10.00pm

ODEON LEICESTER SQUARE
(0870 905 0507) @ Leicester Square
The Mask of Zorro 1.05pm, 3.25pm, 5.45pm, 7.05pm, 9.05pm
Texas Chainsaw Massacre 1.35pm, 3.55pm, 6.15pm, 8.35pm

ODEON MARBLE ARCH
(0870 905 0507) @ Marble Arch
Babe: Pig in the City 12.00pm, 2.00pm, 4.00pm, 6.00pm, 8.00pm, 10.00pm
The Mask of Zorro 12.00pm, 2.00pm, 4.00pm, 6.00pm, 8.00pm, 10.00pm
The Negotiator 12.00pm, 2.00pm, 4.00pm, 6.00pm, 8.00pm, 10.00pm

ODEON MEZZANINE
(0870 905 0507) @ Leicester Square
The Mask of Zorro 1.05pm, 3.25pm, 5.45pm, 7.05pm, 9.05pm
Texas Chainsaw Massacre 1.35pm, 3.55pm, 6.15pm, 8.35pm

ODEON SWISS COTTAGE
(0870 905 0507) @ Leicester Square
The Mask of Zorro 1.05pm, 3.25pm, 5.45pm, 7.05pm, 9.05pm
Texas Chainsaw Massacre 1.35pm, 3.55pm, 6.15pm, 8.35pm

ODEON TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD
(0870 907 0711) @ Tottenham Court Road
The Mask of Zorro 1.05pm, 3.25pm, 5.45pm, 7.05pm, 9.05pm
Texas Chainsaw Massacre 1.35pm, 3.55pm, 6.15pm, 8.35pm

ODEON WEST END
(0870 905 0507) @ Leicester Square
The Mask of Zorro 1.05pm, 3.25pm, 5.45pm, 7.05pm, 9.05pm
Texas Chainsaw Massacre 1.35pm, 3.55pm, 6.15pm, 8.35pm

ODEON WHITELEYS
(0870 905 0507) @ UCI Whiteleys
The Mask of Zorro 1.05pm, 3.25pm, 5.45pm, 7.05pm, 9.05pm
Texas Chainsaw Massacre 1.35pm, 3.55pm, 6.15pm, 8.35pm

ODEON WHITNEY
(0870 905 0507) @ UCI Whiteleys
The Mask of Zorro 1.05pm, 3.25pm, 5.45pm, 7.05pm, 9.05pm
Texas Chainsaw Massacre 1.35pm, 3.55pm, 6.15pm, 8.35pm

ODEON WILTON
(0870 905 0507) @ UCI Whiteleys
The Mask of Zorro 1.05pm, 3.25pm, 5.45pm, 7.05pm, 9.05pm
Texas Chainsaw Massacre 1.35pm, 3.55pm, 6.15pm, 8.35pm

ODEON WOODSIDE
(0870 905 0507) @ UCI Whiteleys
The Mask of Zorro 1.05pm, 3.25pm, 5.45pm, 7.05pm, 9.05pm
Texas Chainsaw Massacre 1.35pm, 3.55pm, 6.15pm, 8.35pm

PLAZA
(0990 888990) @ Piccadilly Circus
Babe: Pig in the City 12.00pm, 2.00pm, 4.00pm, 6.00pm, 8.00pm, 10.00pm
The Mask of Zorro 12.00pm, 2.00pm, 4.00pm, 6.00pm, 8.00pm, 10.00pm
The Negotiator 12.00pm, 2.00pm, 4.00pm, 6.00pm, 8.00pm, 10.00pm

RENOIR
(0171 837 8402) @ Russell Square
Babe: Pig in the City 12.00pm, 2.00pm, 4.00pm, 6.00pm, 8.00pm, 10.00pm
The Mask of Zorro 12.00pm, 2.00pm, 4.00pm, 6.00pm, 8.00pm, 10.00pm
The Negotiator 12.00pm, 2.00pm, 4.00pm, 6.00pm, 8.00pm, 10.00pm

RIO CINEMA
(0171 254 6677) @ Dalston
Babe: Pig in the City 12.00pm, 2.00pm, 4.00pm, 6.00pm, 8.00pm, 10.00pm
The Mask of Zorro 12.00pm, 2.00pm, 4.00pm, 6.00pm, 8.00pm, 10.00pm
The Negotiator 12.00pm, 2.00pm, 4.00pm, 6.00pm, 8.00pm, 10.00pm

RITZY CINEMA
(0171 733 2229) @ Brixton
Babe: Pig in the City 12.00pm, 2.00pm, 4.00pm, 6.00pm, 8.00pm, 10.00pm
The Mask of Zorro 12.00pm, 2.00pm, 4.00pm, 6.00pm, 8.00pm, 10.00pm
The Negotiator 12.00pm, 2.00pm, 4.00pm, 6.00pm, 8.00pm, 10.00pm

SCREEN ON BAKER STREET
(0171 935 2772) @ Baker Street
Babe: Pig in the City 12.00pm, 2.00pm, 4.00pm, 6.00pm, 8.00pm, 10.00pm
The Mask of Zorro 12.00pm, 2.00pm, 4.00pm, 6.00pm, 8.00pm, 10.00pm
The Negotiator 12.00pm, 2.00pm, 4.00pm, 6.00pm, 8.00pm, 10.00pm

SCREEN ON THE HILL
(0171 435 3366) @ Belsize Park
Babe: Pig in the City 12.00pm, 2.00pm, 4.00pm, 6.00pm, 8.00pm, 10.00pm
The Mask of Zorro 12.00pm, 2.00pm, 4.00pm, 6.00pm, 8.00pm, 10.00pm
The Negotiator 12.00pm, 2.00pm, 4.00pm, 6.00pm, 8.00pm, 10.00pm

UCI WHITELEYS
(0990 888990) @ Queensway
Babe: Pig in the City 12.00pm, 2.00pm, 4.00pm, 6.00pm, 8.00pm, 10.00pm
The Mask of Zorro 12.00pm, 2.00pm, 4.00pm, 6.00pm, 8.00pm, 10.00pm
The Negotiator 12.00pm, 2.00pm, 4.00pm, 6.00pm, 8.00pm, 10.00pm

WARNER VILLAGE WEST END
(0171 437 4343) @ Leicester Square
Babe: Pig in the City 12.00pm, 2.00pm, 4.00pm, 6.00pm, 8.00pm, 10.00pm
The Mask of Zorro 12.00pm, 2.00pm, 4.00pm, 6.00

MONDAY RADIO

PICK OF THE DAY

A QUESTION that seems to vex people more than ever before is *How to Be Happy* (8pm R1, right), though it's not clear if this means we are less happy than we used to be, or whether we just have raised expectations of happiness. Here, a number of people, including a Bosnian exile and a pair of piano tuners, talk about their own levels of happiness and ask whether it is

to be found in our work, music, chocolate or increased levels of serotonin in the brain. Perhaps some people are just born happy. A sure shortcut to happiness is Christmas Cocktails 17pm R1, a seasonal compilation of dance music of the Thirties and Forties, tonight featuring the Dorsey Brothers, Chick Webb, Django Reinhardt and others.

ROBERT HANKS



RADIO 1
(97.5-98.8MHz FM)
6.30 Chris Moyles. 9.00 Simon Mayo. 12.00 Kevin Greening. 2.00 Mark Radcliffe. 4.00 Dave Pearce. 6.00 Lameo Live - the Christmas Party. 12.00 The Breezeblock. 2.00 Emma B. 4.00 - 6.30 Scott Mills.

RADIO 2
(88.5-92.4MHz FM)
6.00 Alex Lester. 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan. 9.30 Ken Bruce. 12.00 Jimmy Young. 2.00 Ed Stewart. 5.05 Johnnie Walker. 7.00 Humphrey Lyttelton. 8.00 Big Band Christmas Special. 8.30 The New Jazz Standards. 9.30 The Rock 'n' Roll Years. 10.30 Richard Allinson. 12.00 Katrina Leskanich. 3.00 - 4.00 Mo Dutt.

RADIO 3
(90.2-92.4MHz FM)
6.00 On Air. 9.00 Masterworks. 10.30 Artist of the Week. 11.00 Sound Stories. 12.00 Composer of the Week: Georges Bizet. 1.00 The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert. 2.00 The BBC Orchestras. 4.00 Dival. 4.45 Music to Die For. 5.00 A Medieval Christmas. 5.30 Music Rooms. 6.00 - 6.01 Discovering Music with Leonard Slatkin. 7.00 Christmas Cocktails. See Pick of the Day.

7.30 Performance on 3. Another chance to hear ten of the most memorable concerts of the 1998 BBC Proms season at the Royal Albert Hall, London. Prom 54, given at the end of August, contained a Proms first: Elgar's dramatic and expressive oratorio 'The Apostles', a broad musical canvas richly coloured by his imagination. The life of Christ is treated obliquely to focus on the consequences for his followers, and the work ends with a visionary meditation on the Ascension. BBC Symphony Chorus and Orchestra/Andrew Davis. Elgar: The Apostles. Felicity Lott, soprano (Virgin), Catherine Wyn-Rogers, mezzo (Mary Magdalene), (R) 4.40 Postscript. Comedian and broadcaster Rainer Hersch pre-

sents five personal and idiosyncratic studies of the music of our century. 1: 'The First Taboo'. Holding the book upside down: the Second Viennese School and atonality. 10.00 Voices. 'Christmas with Gerald Finley'. Gerald Finley introduces and sings his favourite Christmas songs in conversation with Iain Burnside, including music by Wolf, Greg, Poulenc and Sterndale-Bennett, plus Irving Berlin's 'White Christmas'. Gerald Finley (baritone), Julius Drake (piano). 10.45 Mixing It. It was Terry Riley's composition 'In C' that brought minimalism to the mainstream. In the 34 years that followed, Riley has embraced - and been embraced by - a whole universe of music. Tonight, he joins Mark Russell and Mark Sandall in the studio to talk about three pieces that have made a big impact on him. 11.30 Jazz Notes. 12.00 Composer of the Week: Johann Sebastian Bach. (R) 1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night.

RADIO 4
(92.4-94.6MHz FM)
6.00 Today. 9.00 NEWS: Start the Week. 9.30 Carols for Choirs. 9.45 Serial: Scroops with Ianucci. 10.00 NEWS: Woman's Hour. 10.00 NEWS: Snapshot from the New South Africa. 11.30 My Gaiety Girls. 12.00 NEWS: You and Yours. 12.57 Weather. 1.00 The World at One.

1.30 Top Brain 1998. 2.00 NEWS: The Archers. 2.15 NEWS: Afternoon Play: Marge's Christmas. 3.00 Money Box Live: 0171 580 4444. 3.30 Beating the System. 3.45 Colonel Clay - Master of Disguise. 4.00 NEWS: The Food Programme. 4.30 Turning World. 5.00 PM. 5.57 Weather. 6.00 Six O'Clock News. 6.30 (R) Sorry I Haven't a Clue. 7.00 NEWS: The Archers. 7.15 Front Row. Francine Stock with the arts programme, including the hunt for the best Christmas single ever. 7.45 Under One Roof. The first of three five-part dramatisations from the Michele Hanson stories. With Janet Maw, Edna Doré and Luisa Bradshaw-White (1/5). 8.00 NEWS: How to Be Happy. An excursion into positive thinking, led by Carole Rosen. With professor of pharmacology Susan Greenfield, historian Theodore Zeldin, novelist Wendy Perriam, piano tuner Hector and Janet Ruggins and Ben Renshaw and his happiness project. See Pick of the Day. 8.30 Analysis. 'Buy Now, Pay Later'. Andrew Dilnot asks how far we can really afford the debts we incur and whether we are storing up trouble for the future. 9.00 NEWS: A Wolf to the North: Fear. Wildlife writer Jim Crumley

travels north through Alaska in search of the Arctic wolf and all it symbolises. 9.30 Start the Week. Jeremy Paxman sets the cultural agenda for the week with guests including Professor Nancy Rothwell of Manchester University's School of Biological Sciences, who will be delivering this year's Royal Institution Christmas Lectures. 10.00 The World Tonight. With Robin Lustig. 10.45 Book at Bedtime: Chosen for Christmas. Five stars read their chosen seasonal tale. 1: Patricia Routledge reads 'Winter' from 'Cider with Rosie' by Laurie Lee. 11.00 Radio 4 Appeal. The vicar of St Martin in the Fields speaks on behalf of St Martin in the Fields, a charity which helps the homeless and those in need throughout the British Isles. 11.02 Fatherland. (R) 11.30 Rebel Music. 12.00 News. 12.30 The Late Book: Out of Her Senses. 12.48 Shipping Forecast. 1.00 As World Service. 1.30 World News. 1.55 Shipping Forecast. 1.57 Inshore Forecast. 1.59 Prayer for the Day. 1.59 Fanning Today.

RADIO 4 LW
(98.1kHz)
9.45 - 10.00 Daily Service. 12.00 - 12.04 News Headlines: Shipping Forecast. 5.54 - 5.57 Shipping Forecast. 11.30 - 12.00 Today in Parliament.

RADIO 5 LIVE
(693, 909kHz MW)
6.00 Breakfast. 9.00 Brian Hayes. 12.00 The Midday News. 1.00 Ruscoe and Co. 4.00 Drive. 7.00 News Extra. 7.30 The Whistle Blower. 2: Simon Mann goes behind the scenes to talk to the man in black. How do football referees cope with the intense pressure of their job? 8.00 Trevor Brooking's Monday Match. Featuring commentary from the Valley, where Charlton Athletic take on Aston Villa in the FA Carling Premiership. Plus all the latest news from across the continent in the European football round-up. 10.00 Late Night Live. With Steve LeVere. Incl 10.30 Sports Round-Up. 11.00 News. 1.00 Up All Night. 5.00 - 6.00 Morning Reports.

CLASSIC FM
(100.9-101.9MHz FM)
6.00 Nick Bailey. 8.00 Henry Kelly. 12.00 Requests. 2.00 Concerto. 3.00 Jamie Cullum. 6.30 Newsnight. 7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven. 9.00 Evening Concert. 11.00 Alan Mann. 2.00 Concerto. 3.00 - 6.00 Mark Griffiths.

VIRGIN RADIO
(1215, 1197-1260kHz MW 105.8MHz FM)
6.00 Jeremy Clark. 9.30 Russ Williams. 1.00 Nick Abbot. 4.00 Harriet Scott. 7.30 Janey Lee Grace. 10.00 James Merritt. 1.00 - 6.00 Richard Allen.

WORLD SERVICE RADIO
(98kHz LW)
1.00 Newsdesk. 1.30 Seven Days. 1.45 Wild Tales. 2.00 Newsday. 2.30 On Screen. 3.00 World News. 3.05 World Business Report. 3.45 Sports Roundup. 3.50 The Greatest City on Earth. 4.00 - 7.00 The World Today.

TALK RADIO
6.00 Bill Overton and Sally Meen. 9.00 Scott Chisholm. 12.00 Lorraine Kelly. 2.00 Anna Raeburn. 4.00 Peter Deasy. 5.00 The Sports Zone. 8.00 Mike Allen. 1.00 - 6.00 Ian Collins.

INDEPENDENT PURSUITS

CHESS

JON SPEELMAN

LAST MONDAY, I examined the rules regarding pawn promotion. This time it's castling. In the ancient game of Shatranj, a precursor of modern chess, the king moved as in our game, but there were no extensions to its powers. These first appeared, possibly in the 13th century, in the form of a leap which could take the king from e1 to any of c1, c2, c3, d3, e3, f3, g3, g2, g1 or even further.

The modern idea of castling by moving a king and rook simultaneously developed from this, initially with multiple variations - kingside castling could take the form of Kf1 and Re1, Kf1 and Rf1 and Re1 etc, etc - and bad stabilised by the 17th century everywhere except in Italy, where 'roque forms' remained in use right up to the beginning of this century.

The modern rule, which I shall paraphrase, is that the king moves two squares along a rank towards a rook, which then jumps over it landing on the square next to it. Both the king and the rook must be unmoved, and there must be no pieces between them; moreover, the rook must be on the first rank - problemists at one stage had fun with the idea of castling along the e file with a newly underpromoted pawn! Castling is illegal if the king is in check or has to move across, or to a square that is attacked; but you can castle after being in check (as long, of course, as you didn't parry it by moving the king). The rook can be attacked, or move over a square that is attacked.

Such an unusual move leads to all sorts of effects and records, which are treated in detail in *Starting Castling* by Robert Timmer, published by B T Batsford last year. There are things like the latest known in a master game - be gives a couple on move 46, though I subsequently found an instance from the Hungarian Team Championship in 1993-4 where it was as late as move 48; and occasions when it has a particularly powerful effect, such as the well known but vicious trap of White castling queenside with check simultaneously attacking a black rook on b2.

I recently fell victim to a 'startling castling' myself - though I had in fact foreseen it - in a splendid game that will no doubt appear in future editions. 19-0-0!! was a tremendous blow, though I'd have had much better chances after 19... Rg8!

White: Yasser Seirawan

Black:

Jon Speelman

Elisa Olympiad 1998

Modern Defence

1 d4 g6	15 Ng5 Qe7
2 e4 Bg7	16 Nxf7 Kxf7
3 c4 d6	17 fxe4 Nxe4
4 Nc3 Nc6	18 Nxe4 Qxe4
5 Be3 e5	19 0-0! Rhg8?
6 d5 Nce7	20 Bx5+ Kf8
7 g4 f5	21 Rxf5+ Qxf5
8 Bf3 N6	22 Bg5 Be5
9 Be2 N7	23 Rf1 Qxf1+
10 b4 Ng8	24 Kf1 Kg7
11 exd5 gxf5	25 Be7 Kh8
12 Qd2 Nf6	26 Qh6 Bg7
13 gxf5 Bxf5	27 Qe6 Bxb2
14 Nb3 e4	28 Bf7 Rg3 1-0

BRIDGE

ALAN HIRON

South made a good start in his game contract on this deal and, indeed, achieved a winning end position. However, West found a deceptive defence and - now faced with a guess - declarer got it wrong. South opened One Heart and, after a pass by West, North raised directly to game to end the auction. West led ♠Q against Four Hearts and it was immediately clear to declarer that the complete duplication of the North-South distribution would set problems. East overtook his partner's ♠Q, hoping to be left on lead to push a spade through, but South won, drew trumps in two rounds, cashed ♠A K, and exited with ♠10.

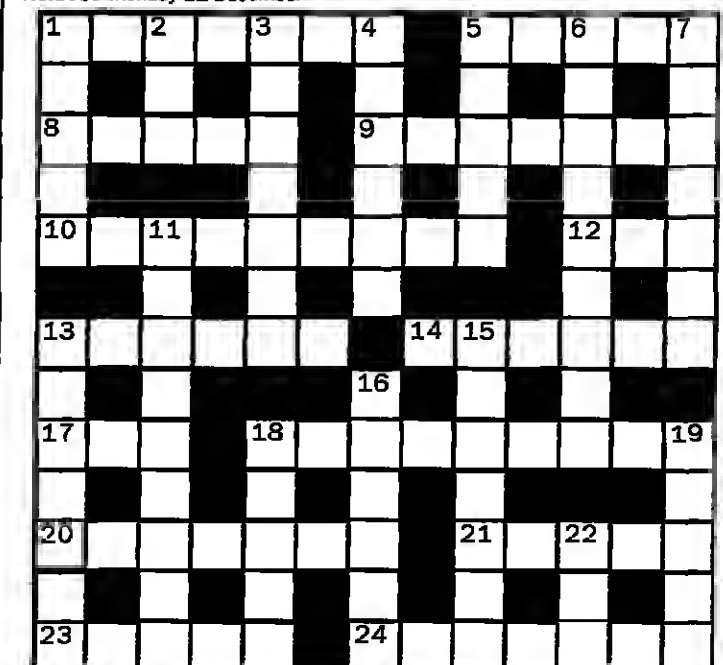
West won with his jack and continued with ♠J. East studies this for some while, for superficially at any rate, it looked best to overtake in order to lead a spade. But would that help? Certainly not as the cards lie, for South would play low and West would be end-played. Even if West's spades were as good as A Q x, there was no hurry, for West could get off lead safely with a low spade.

Eventually East allowed his partner to hold the club trick (Lunatic or genius? As S J Simon

once wrote), it looked fatal for the defence but West found the inspired exit of ♠10! Now, from declarer's point of view, this was just the card that he would have led from ♠Q10x8 (x) or ♠K10x8 (x). Hoping that the lead was from a five-card suit (when East would therefore have ♠K x or ♠Q x); declarer played low from dummy and, after winning with his ace, got off lead with spade. Oh dear! East was not end-played at all, and West triumphantly took the next two tricks with ♠Q and ♠K...

CONCISE CROSSWORD

No.3799 Monday 21 December



- | | | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| ACROSS | 1 Encrusted with sugar (7) | DOWN | 1 Intrigue (5) |
| 2 Detests (5) | 3 Sign of ascent (3) | 2 Emblem (5) | 3 Passive quality (7) |
| 4 Nooses (7) | 4 Flower (6) | 5 At all events (9) | 5 Divide by two (5) |
| 6 Billiards implement (3) | 6 Government by religious leaders (9) | 7 Beetle (6) | 7 Think probable (7) |
| 8 Meal (6) | 8 Deserted (9) | 9 Seedcase (3) | 9 Plausible but invalid argument (7) |
| 10 White blood cell (9) | 10 Make speeches (5) | 11 Bazaar (7) | 11 Study of the environment (7) |
| 12 Military decoration (5) | 12 Deserted (9) | 13 Stabbing weapon (7) | 13 Magnificent (6) |
| | 14 Defame in print (5) | | 14 Throw out (5) |
| | 15 Girl's name (3) | | |

Solution to last Saturday's Concise Crossword:
ACROSS: 1 Shiny, 4 Slacker (Chinese loquax), 8 Decorum, 9 Dryad, 10 Turin, 11 Lat-tice, 13 Twine, 15 Splish, 17 Origin, 20 Acne, 22 Granite, 24 Antic, 26 Amuse, 27 Eudaimon, 28 Prevent, 29 Rhyme, DOWN: 1 Seduces, 2 Incur, 3 Y Yronis, 4 Sample, 5 Audit, Key-ning, 7 Ridge, 12 Aeon, 14 Whal, 16 Loukage, 18 Reactor, 19 Nacelle, 21 Cement, 22 Grasp, 25 Issue, 25 Tarry.

SATELLITE AND CABLE

PICK OF THE DAY

GARETH EDWARDS (right) is the scorer of perhaps the most famous try in rugby history - that titanic end-to-end effort (immortalised by Cliff Morgan's commentary) for the Barbarians against the All Blacks in the 1970s. But more than that, he was the dream scrum-half, able to pass, kick or run with equal facility. It is hard to think of a more complete rugby player in the game's history. He is profiled tonight in *Dickie Davies*

Sporting Heroes (10pm Sky Sports 3). Has any British director more accurately chronicled our social mores than Mike Leigh? A double-bill of his work tonight kicks off with his exquisitely-observed suburban comedy, *Life is Sweet* (8.10pm FilmFour), which is followed by his sharp portrait of a devious misogynist (David Thewlis) in *Naked* (10pm FilmFour).

JAMES RAMPTON



appearances (14:46:57). 2.50 - 7.00 Shopping with Screenplay (311:02:29).

LIVING
6.00 Tiny Living (1987/7). 9.00 The Roseanne Show (1987/8). 9.50 Jerry Springer (1987/8). 10.40 Michael Cole (1987/8). 11.30 Beyond Belief: Fact or Fiction (1987/8). 12.30 Rescue 911 (1987/8). 1.35 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (1987/8). 2.30 Jerry Springer (1987/8). 3.00 Film: Beloved Infidel (1987/8). 3.30 1000 Tempest (1987/8). 4.30 Jerry Springer (1987/8). 5.30 Rescue 911 (1987/8). 6.30 Beyond Belief: Fact or Fiction (1987/8). 7.30 Aily McLeod (1987/8). 8.00 Film: A Mother's Courage: the Mary Thomas Story (1987/8). 9.00 The Spy Sex Files (1987/8). 12.00 Close.

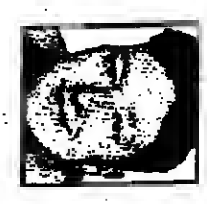
TNT
9.00 Clash of the Titans (1981) (5:21:58). 11.00 Pottermore (1982) (5:28:25). 1.00 Guns for San Sebastian (1988) (5:40:42). 3.00 Clash of the Titans (1981) (4:48:35). 5.00 Close.

PARAMOUNT COMEDY CHANNEL
7.00 Cuckoo's Nest (1987/8). 8.00 Desperate Housewives (1987/8). 9.00 Just Shoot Me (1987/8). 10.00 Cybill (1987/8). 11.00 Seinfeld (1987/8). 12.00 Frasier (1987/8). 1.00 Cheers (1987/8). 1.00 Festival of Fun (1987/8). 1.30 The Larry Sanders Show (1987/8). 2.00 Late Night with David Letterman (1987/8). 2.30 The Dick Cavett Show (1987/8). 3.00 The Dick Cavett Show (1987/8). 3.30 The Dick Cavett Show (1987/8). 4.00 The Dick Cavett Show (1987/8). 4.30 The Dick Cavett Show (1987/8). 5.00 The Dick Cavett Show (1987/8). 5.30 The Dick Cavett Show (1987/8). 6.00 The Dick Cavett Show (1987/8). 6.30 The Dick Cavett Show (1987/8). 7.00 The Dick Cavett Show (1987/8). 7.30 The Dick Cavett Show (1987/8). 8.00 The Dick Cavett Show (1987/8). 8.30 The Dick Cavett Show (1987/8). 9.00 The Dick Cavett Show (1987/8). 9.30 The Dick Cavett Show (1987/8). 10.00 The Dick Cavett Show (1987/8). 10.30 The Dick Cavett Show (1987/8). 11.00 The Dick Cavett Show (1987/8). 11.30 The Dick Cavett Show (1987/8). 12.00 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MONDAY TELEVISION

THE MONDAY REVIEW
The Independent 21 December 1996



MATTHEW SWEET

TELEVISION REVIEW

IT'S NICE to see TV keeping its head in with costume drama. Come to think of it, it's nice to see an ITV drama that doesn't have Robson Green in it. This being commercial television, it went for the whomp-whomp end of the fiction section, and turned to Daphne du Maurier's *Penninah* (ITV). It's not quite *Penninah* classic material, but what the heck. It had gorgeous Cornish locations, it had a young, sword-fighting heroine with the grand name of Lady Dora St. Columb, and it had Anthony Delon (Maurier's son) as a French privateer with all the period charm of a Chippendale, circa 1880. The striping, rather than the upstretched limb.

The story opened as FitzGerald's 17th-century gothic time plot was dealing in order to her ancestral home in order to "rescue the world and what I have become." (Sweet says, "I've probably done it to Norfolk and live in a gothic house with Lyndie Francis.") Her husband (James Fleet) was something of an absentee drunk and her children were perfectly happy. (This being a time of religious turmoil, little Heidi and little Charles were rather taken with tying up the family dog and attempting to exorcise his evil demons.) And they needed to be happy, because the plot demanded that her ladyship abandon her maternal responsibilities for a big-dicked Gallic saracen!

I suspect it was that mutual interest in long curly, bearded Bolshoiian hair that brought the two of them together. And it didn't take them long to get serious. After their first dispirited spot of violent flirtation on the local quayside - he brought her breakfast in bed, popping into her cabin and feeding her soldiers the eggs, not the military, mind.

Before you could say *elab me vlahs*, we were plunged into an extraordinary sequence of sooty romantic images. It was as if you were walking around inside the sexual fantasies of a Swedish housewife. La FitzGerald groaned under a big continental shower. Then she was on deck in a flouncy, off-the-shoulder number, having her neck eaten. Then Dora was up in the rigging, the sunset slowly fading behind him. Then, by some vicious process known only to wicked lady artists and their pirate

- 5.00 Business Breakfast** (BBC1) 5.00 News (ITV) (98889), 5.00 Sweet Valley High (ITV) (784704), 5.25 Children's BBC (The Farm Game (ITV) (784018), 5.35 Blue Peter (ITV) (697031), 5.40 Regional News: Weather (ITV) (690451), 10.20 News: Regional News: Weather (ITV) (690451), 10.30 **ITV News** (ITV) (690451), 10.35 **ITV News** (ITV) (690451), 10.40 **ITV News** (ITV) (690451), 10.45 **ITV News** (ITV) (690451), 10.50 **ITV News** (ITV) (690451), 11.00 **ITV News** (ITV) (690451), 11.05 **ITV News** (ITV) (690451), 11.10 **ITV News** (ITV) (690451), 11.15 **ITV News** (ITV) (690451), 11.20 **ITV News** (ITV) (690451), 11.25 **ITV News** (ITV) (690451), 11.30 **ITV News** (ITV) (690451), 11.35 **ITV News** (ITV) (690451), 11.40 **ITV News** (ITV) (690451), 11.45 **ITV News** (ITV) (690451), 11.50 **ITV News** (ITV) (690451), 11.55 **ITV News** (ITV) (690451), 12.00 **ITV News** (ITV) (690451), 12.05 **ITV News** (ITV) (690451), 12.10 **ITV News** (ITV) (690451), 12.15 **ITV News** 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